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Japan

Kaifu Pledges Support of UNSC Gulf Resolution

OW3011040690 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Regarding the report that the UN Security Council has adopted a resolution which virtually allows the use of force against Iraq, Prime Minister Kaifu stated to a group of reporters this morning that the resolution is of great significance, that the resolution will enhance the possibility of implementing all the UN resolutions, and that Japan will support the resolution. However, he stated that there will be no change in Japan's position on seeking a peaceful settlement and that it strongly hopes that Iraq will accept this resolution as the final consensus of the international community and agree to such principles as withdrawal from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto also made remarks at the press conference held this morning:

[Video shows Sakamoto seated at a desk reading from a prepared statement] [Begin Sakamoto recording] While appraising the efforts so far by the UN Security Council to settle the Gulf crisis, we will support the current resolution as it will be a means to strengthen such efforts. The current resolution is important because it gives the right to take every necessary measure.

Our nation strongly hopes that the Gulf crisis will eventually be settled in a peaceful way. Moreover, concerning Japan, we would like to strongly demand once again that Iraq admit that the current resolution is the last chance for such a conclusion; and in order to not deteriorate the situation further, Iraq should promptly carry out all related UNSC resolutions on withdrawal from Kuwait and on the immediate and unconditional release of all foreign hostages. [end recording]

KYODO Reports Further on Support

OW3011003190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0019 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 30 (KYODO)—A top Foreign Ministry official said Friday the Japanese Government supports the resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council authorizing the use of force against Iraq if it does not pull its troops out of Kuwait by January 15.

"The resolution is aimed at seeking withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and a peaceful resolution (to the Gulf crisis)," said the official who declined to be named. He said he expects the resolution to lead to a diplomatic and political solution to the crisis.

Government sources said Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto is expected to issue a statement shortly expressing support for the U.N. resolution, which authorized U.N. members cooperating with Kuwait's exiled government to "use all necessary means" to uphold and implement previous demands for a troop withdrawal and to restore international peace and security.

Aid to USSR Planned for 'as Early as December'

OW3011045490 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0400 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Kaifu held consultations with Foreign Minister Nakayama and Finance Minister Hashimoto before the cabinet meeting this morning, and decided that from a humanitarian viewpoint, an emergency aid of medical supplies amounting to several hundred million yen would be provided, as early as December, to the Soviet Union which is reportedly suffering from a serious shortage of medical materials.

Due to this shortage, the Soviet Government has made an unofficial request for aid to the Japanese Government through Soviet Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov and others. Concerning this emergency aid, the government has decided on immediately working out concrete plans for providing medical supplies amounting to several hundred million yen through such international organizations as the World Health Organization, as early as December.

The government has maintained that no economic aid will be provided before the settlement of the northern territorial issue, which is based on the so-called principle of not separating political considerations from economic interests, and has indicated a negative approach toward the emergency aid. However, it has been pointed out in various circles, particularly within the Liberal Democratic Party, that emergency aid should be provided prior to President Gorbachev's visit to Japan to break the ice and improve Japanese-Soviet relations. Because of this, the government has decided on taking the action.

Watanabe Affirms Medical Aid

OW3011105390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Japan will give the Soviet Union 2.6 billion yen in medical supplies as humanitarian aid to victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident and a lesser amount to ease chronic shortages of pharmaceuticals, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Taizo Watanabe told foreign correspondents it will be the first time for Japan to extend medical aid to the Soviet Union in the postwar period.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu formally decided earlier in the day to give 2.6 billion yen to the U.N.-affiliated World Health Organization (WHO) for the supply of medical kits to ease the impact of the 1986 nuclear disaster, he said.

He said the cabinet also agreed to meet an informal Soviet request for an urgent supply of pharmaceuticals, though neither amount nor the timing were decided.

Watanabe said cabinet members also decided to consider a Soviet request for food aid.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said food aid for the Soviet Union is not being considered in light of the bountiful wheat harvest there. But Watanabe said Nakayama merely meant that at the moment Japan has "no evidence" to compel it to extend emergency food aid. "Our position is open-ended on this particular question," the press secretary said. "At this moment, no, but in the future we just don't know." "If the situation deteriorates—something happens, food rots, transportation facilities are so bad there everywhere starvation takes place—it is a humane consideration," he added.

Foreign Ministry sources denied the government is likely to accede to additional Soviet requests for Japan's provision of basic consumer commodities and loans.

Watanabe said the 2.6 billion yen for Chernobyl victims was decided in principal when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Tokyo in August.

One source said the amount of funds for the pharmaceuticals, most likely to be sent through WHO, is "far less ... because we just don't find any concrete evidence that they need such a large amount of aid."

Watanabe, meanwhile, said it will take time for Japan to decide on food aid to the Soviets in part because of a need to know the cause of the problem. "When there is such a rich harvest, why do the people starve?—no answer is easily available," he said.

Watanabe said the Japanese private sector is also gearing to extend assistance to the Soviets. He said various pledges to provide relief items are imminent.

Watanabe echoed remarks by a top Foreign Ministry official Thursday that Japan's territorial dispute with the Soviet Union over four islands seized at the end of World War II is no obstacle to its extending Moscow humanitarian aid. But he said the government's policy of linking political progress with economic progress in Japan's relations with the Soviet Union "still stands."

Japan has ruled out full economic assistance to Moscow as long as it refuses to return sovereignty over the islands off Hokkaido to Japan. The Soviet Union's relatively high gross national product (GNP), however, disqualifies it as a potential recipient of Japan's official development assistance (ODA).

Territorial Dispute No Obstacle to Soviet Aid

OW2911180490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1512 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 (KYODO)—Japan's territorial dispute with the Soviet Union over four islands seized at the end of World War II is no obstacle to its extending urgent humanitarian assistance as requested by Moscow, a top Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters that the existence of the territorial dispute would not prevent Japan from agreeing to the Soviet Union's unofficial request for the provision of pharmaceuticals to alleviate chronic shortages now faced there as the winter sets in.

Japan has ruled out full-fledged economic assistance to Moscow as long as the four islands off Hokkaido remain in Soviet hands.

The official said, however, that the government has yet to decide to what extent Japan should medically assist the Soviets and where the funds needed would come from. The official's remarks came a day after top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said the government would give urgent attention to the Soviet requests for emergency aid.

In addition to pharmaceuticals, Moscow has also called on Japan to supply it with foodstuffs and basic consumer commodities, but officials have ruled out such a prospect as unfeasible.

Another high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said earlier in the day that while the Soviet request for pharmaceuticals is "still under examination," the ministry is making efforts to find a potential source of funds.

The official ruled out as an option the ministry's supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, which ends in March, as it has already been overstretched by Japan's pledge of 130 billion yen for a fund to assist the multinational efforts in the Persian Gulf. He noted that the supplementary budget already includes some 2.61 billion yen destined for a United Nations-associated fund to supply medical equipment to help victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The official also said the prospective funds will "very likely not" come from an as yet undepleted special account established in the ministry's current budget to finance emergency relief efforts in the aftermath of disasters. He explained that in that eventuality it would be necessary to justify why the Soviet pharmaceutical shortage is more of a "disaster" than the serious situations faced by some Third World countries. "The Soviet Union is relatively rich," the source said.

Japanese officials have expressed doubts as to the severity of the food shortage in the Soviet Union, attributing the problem in part to panic-buying and irregularities in getting foodstuffs from the farm to the store shelves. Officials have noted that the Soviets have had a bountiful harvest of grains this year.

Nakayama Leaves for Uruguay Round in Brussels

OW3011064790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 30 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left here for Brussels Friday afternoon to attend the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on December 3 to 7.

Nakayama, along with Minister of International Trade and Industry Kabun Muto and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Tomio Yamamoto, will represent Japan at the talks for freer world trade.

Cabinet Pledges 'Utmost Efforts'

OW3011051790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0503 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—The government pledged Friday to make utmost efforts to bring the ongoing global trade talks to a successful conclusion, which is seen as vital to Japan's further economic prosperity.

The pledge, made in a statement on Japan's basic policy toward the ministerial meeting of the Uruguay Round of trade liberalization talks, to be held in Brussels from December 3 to 7, was approved by the cabinet earlier in the day.

The statement said the success of the Uruguay Round, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), is "an important diplomatic task for Japan, which has been one of the great beneficiaries of the GATT-based multilateral free trading system." If the global talks do not come to a successful conclusion, "the harmful effects on the international community will be immeasurable," given uncertainties over the Gulf crisis and other political and economic developments around the globe, it said. Failure of the four-year round would be disastrous for Japan in particular, as it would be one of the nations hardest hit by possibly resulting unilateral measures, exclusive regionalism, and protectionism, it said.

While acknowledging that there remain many issues unresolved in the main negotiation fields such as agriculture and services, the statement failed to mention the problem of Japan's rice import ban, apparently due to discords among ministers on the issue.

Reflecting continued opposition to liberalization of the rice market, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery Minister Tomio Yamamoto told the cabinet that Japan should act appropriately on the basis of its traditional position on rice. His remarks were countered by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who hinted that there need to be concessions on the issue, saying Japan should make further efforts to meet foreign expectations of its greater contribution to global trade.

LDP Optimistic Over Talks

OW3011080590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0622 GMT 30 Nov 90

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—If the top brass of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and Farm Ministry officials have any apprehensions about the crucial trade negotiations in Brussels next week, they show few signs of them.

They appear, if anything, well relaxed and care-free despite the possibility that they might find themselves under such pressure in the negotiations that they will be forced to make a painful political decision to lift Japan's longstanding ban on rice imports. Their optimistic look reflects the growing consensus among policymakers in Tokyo that such a thing will not happen.

The current stalemate between the United States and the European Community (EC) over reducing farm protection, they believe, has reached the point where an overnight solution would require a virtual miracle.

An LDP member with a strong influence over the party's farm policy declared, "the EC will not make major concessions during the Brussels meeting. Such a deep gulf cannot possibly be bridged in five days."

The December 3-7 meeting of trade ministers from over 100 countries is supposed to conclude the four-year multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). But the Uruguay Round, as the talks are generally known, is on the verge of collapsing due to the wide differences between the U.S. and the EC over how liberalized the farm trade should be.

Japanese negotiators are increasingly inclined toward the prediction that the impasse will cause a major delay, if not a complete breakdown, of the talks. They believe the best the GATT negotiators can be expected to come up with at the Brussels meeting is an agreement on a broad framework with little specifics that leaves most vital issues to later negotiations.

A top-ranking Farm Ministry official said, "it's not on the cards that such a specific issue as the rice will be discussed at the meeting."

The nagging fear that the U.S. and the EC may secretly shake hands and suddenly apply coordinated pressures on Japan to open its rice market has disappeared. Most government officials are now agreed that there are no signs yet that signal a move. "We tried every source in Geneva to gather information about the issue, but have gotten absolutely nothing that indicates any behind-the-scenes move toward an agreement," said a senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) who attended the recent Geneva negotiations.

Hiroshi Usui, manager of the Agriculture Policy Department of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu) echoed this view. "All the information that we have obtained point to no detailed farm agreement at the Brussels meeting," he said.

Experts say any major move would have to be made immediately after the German election on December 2.

"The two sides will be engaged in tough haggling from the night of December 3 through December 4. And a pact, if any should come up, will emerge on December 5," Usui said.

The MITI official agreed with that assessment, saying, "the farm talks will come to a head on December 4, and an agreement could be reached on December 5, or no agreement at all." "The Cairns Group (of 14 farm exporting countries) is indicating they will decide on their attitude on December 6," he added.

The top farm official said, "it is a fair bet that Mr. (Tomio) Yamamoto (Japan's farm minister) won't even have the opportunity to play his hands at the negotiation table." "And I really hope that will be the case," he said.

Feeling safe and secure, the government is sending officials to Brussels with no contingency plans for emergency decision-making if the unexpected happens.

"We have conducted no simulation of how we should react," said a former Defense Minister who has strong political clout on the farm issue. "The decision, if any is needed, will be made in Brussels through consultations with the party bosses back at home," he said.

One of the "farm tribe" bosses in the LDP said, "the party has come to a conclusion that we had best sit out the row between the U.S. and the EC. We have no crisis-management scheme."

The LDP is already looking beyond the faltering Uruguay round. It has decided to send powerful politicians affiliated with the farm lobby, including former Farm Minister Tsutomu Hata and LDP agriculture adviser Koichi Kato, to Brussels.

"The mission for the LDP members who are sent to Brussels is to work out the post-Uruguay round agenda for the farm talks with (U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton) Yeutter," said another senior Zenchu official.

But even if the event follows the course that the LDP and the government expect, it will not mean a happy ending for Japan.

The U.S. Rice Millers' Association has made it clear that it will file a petition under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Law, as it has done twice in the past, over Japan's "unfair" ban on rice imports.

Yujiro Hayami, a GATT farm talk specialist at Aoyama Gakuin University, laments, "everybody in the government knows dragging our feet on the rice issue will do nothing but a harm to Japan. But nobody has the guts to stand up and say so."

Yamamoto, Australian Officials View GATT Talks

OW2911175690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0512 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—Australia's Minister for Primary Industries and Energy John Kerin urged Japan to exercise leadership in international farm negotiations in talks Thursday with Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Tomio Yamamoto, Japanese officials said.

Kerin said that Japan as an economic superpower should use its leadership to achieve a successful outcome in the four-year-old Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to begin Monday in Brussels, the officials said.

In response, Yamamoto said,"free trade is important but the situation of farming differs for each country. What is necessary is cooperation between farm product exporting countries and importing countries."

Geoff Miller, secretary of the Australian Primary Industries and Energy Department, who was also at the meeting, said he understood the rice problem is a difficult one and that he recognized Japan's efforts, but expressed the hope that Japan will send a signal to quicken developments in farm negotiations, according to the officials.

Joint Committee With Hong Kong Proposed

HK3011025090 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 30 Nov 90 pp 1, 2

[By Fanny Wong in Tokyo]

[Text] At least 21 parliamentarians in Japan have agreed to join the first ever joint committee to be formed between the Hong Kong Legislative Council [Legco] and the Japanese Diet.

Mr Tsutomu Hata, chairman of the Japanese side of the committee, yesterday said he expected the panel to hold its inaugural meeting next summer at the latest. An influential member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Mr Hata told the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST that he hoped his team could eventually comprise 30 members. He said the most important member was Mr Koichi Kato, who was a vice-consul-general in Hong Kong more than 20 years ago and had twice been appointed director-general of the Japanese Defence Agency. Mr Hata predicted that Mr Kato might one day become prime minister of Japan.

Other members included the director-general of the LDP's International Bureau, Mr Kazuo Aichi; a member of the Diet's standing committee on judiciary affairs Mr Shinya Tozka; and the chairman of the Diet's standing committee on foreign affairs Miss Akiko Santo.

The Hong Kong team will be led by the Senior Legislative Councillor Mr Allen Lee Peng-fei. Mr Lee, the Governor Sir David Wilson, Senior Executive Councillor Lady Dunn and legislator Mr Martin Barrow yesterday met Mr Hata and about 10 other LDP leaders. Sir David is in Tokyo on a four-day visit.

After the session, Sir David said Mr Hata wanted to bring in people from the opposition parties as well to the future Japan-Hong Kong Parliamentary Association. "What is encouraging was the enthusiasm they showed for establishing links with Legco members and the fact that this is a group of younger people who are going to be some of the important leaders of Japan in the future," the Governor said. "So I see that as setting a very good foundation for the relationship between the Diet and Legco."

Describing his team members as "very serious", Mr Hata said he had so far only approached those who had shown concern about Hong Kong and indicated an interest in Joining the committee.

The proposal for a joint parliamentary group was first mooted by some LDP members who had visited Hong Kong and considered the territory an important centre.

Mr Hata's own first visit to Hong Kong was seven years ago when he came to visit the Vietnamese refugee camps. He said he was impressed by Hong Kong's rapid developments when he made his second tour to the territory early this month. "My visit this year is meaningful. I see so many changes in Hong Kong's urban development. It is nice to see that in such a small place, such dynamic changes are going on," he said.

Noting that many Japanese business concerns were opening branches in Hong Kong, Mr Hata said his economic contacts had told him that they wanted to know more about Hong Kong.

A joint committee linking the two legislative bodies would help bolster mutual co-operationa and understanding, he said. "We would like to help Hong Kong develop. Hong Kong is important to Asia and we need more mutual co-operation," he said.

Mr Hata dismissed a suggestion that the group was meant to be a forum through which Japan could step up its political influence in Hong Kong after 1997. "This is not our intention at all," he said.

Instead, he added, it was the British Embassy in Japan which had asked him to support freedom in Hong Kong. Japan had a strong relationship with both China and Britain, he stressed. "I would like to keep the Japanese Government informed. We can report to the Government when something happens which requires mutual co-operation of the two sides," he said. The committee's aim was to bolster mutual understanding, he added.

If the Hong Kong side sought support for the Port and Airport Development Strategy, Mr Hata said they would be prepared to encourage Japanese investments in the projects. It was also possible, he continued, that they could ask the Japanese Government for loans for the projects. "We have been helping other countries in arranging these kind of loans before. I believe there is a possibility," said Mr Hata. But he said he had not initiated any negotiations about this possibility yet.

Mr Hata was confident that Japanese businessmen would be keen to invest in Hong Kong infrastructure projects and the Japanese Government had also been supportive. "Hong Kong will have a big role to play as a centre of information and as a money market. It is going to be a good example for mainland China," he said. He believed that China would switch its economic policy from a communist model to a free market system.

'Extremists' Suspected in Railway, Shrine Attacks

OW3011083890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0527 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Kyoto, Nov. 30 KYODO—Fires broke out in a total of eight locations in western Japan from midnight Thursday to early Friday morning, in what police suspect are arson attacks by extremists opposed to the imperial system. There were no reports of injuries.

Police said the series of the fires at and near railway stations and at a Shinto shrine, was apparently aimed at disrupting Emperor Akihito's scheduled visit to Kyoto and Nara Prefectures this weekend and early next week.

The emperor and Empress Michiko are to travel to Kashihara in Nara Prefecture on the private Kintetsu Railway on Sunday after they stop over in Kyoto.

According to Imperial Household Agency officials, the emperor will visit an ancient imperial mausoleum in Kashihara to "report to the ancestral gods" on his accession to the throne.

Police said four fires occurred almost simultaneously around midnight Thursday at four railway stations on the Kintetsu Line in Nara Prefecture, causing damage to a wooden wall, a shed, and a litter bin. Another fire destroyed a storehouse of a ladies' wear maker next to a Kintetsu Line station in Kyoto. A Shinto shrine in Aichigawa, Shiga Prefecture, was completely destroyed by a fire which started around 1:30 a.m. Friday.

Two other fires at around 4 a.m. damaged the facilities of a textile maker and a cultural research institute in Kyoto, both of which manufactured goods for use of the emperor's enthronement ceremonies, such as traditional imperial clothing, flags, and banners.

Police said they found automatic ignition devices in the debris at a railway station in Nara, and small batteries and electric wire at the scene of the fires at two other stations in Nara and the shrine in Shiga.

Radical leftist activists opposed to the imperial system have launched a series of recent attacks against police dormitories, railway stations, and other facilities connected with the emperor's enthronement.

Two groups—Chukaku-ha (Middle-core Faction) and Kakurokyo—have claimed responsibility for most of the some 125 such incidents this year, including those related to the opposition to expansion work at Narita Airport in Chiba Prefecture. Sixty-one of the attacks have occurred since the November 12 enthronement ceremony.

The Chukaku-ha claimed responsibility for an explosion that blew out part of a concrete wall on Monday on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line in Yokohama hours before Emperor Akihito was to use the line to visit the ancient shrine at Ise in central Japan.

Council To Devise New Defense Buildup Plan

OW2911131690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—The Security Council, Japan's top defense policy-making body, decided Thursday to devise a new midterm defense buildup plan to replace one that expires next March, government officials said.

The new buildup plan follows the current 18.4 trillion yen, five-year program, which was based on the assumption that the international balance of power existing in 1985 would remain unchanged.

Wrapping up discussion at the council, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said a midterm defense plan would be needed for continued development of Japan's defense capability after the current buildup program expires next March.

The council instructed the Defense Agency and other government officials concerned to decide the period of the next defense plan before the government approves the defense buildup program at a cabinet meeting in late December.

Some government officials have argued that the term of the next defense buildup outline should be reduced to three years from the current five or should be reviewed half-way through to keep pace with rapidly changing international events.

Yuri-3A Satellite To Begin Broadcast Service

OW2911124690 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The Yuri-3A broadcasting satellite, which was launched by the National Space Development Agency [NSDA] in August, was handed over this evening to NHK and Japan Satellite Broadcasting Incorporated, a commercial enterprise. The two stations will start broadcasting on three of the satellite's channels on 30 November.

Yuri-3A, the new broadcasting satellite, was handed over to NHK and the private Japan Satellite Broadcasting at 1800 this evening, since the NSDA has confirmed that there will be no problems for the satellite to broadcast on three channels for the time being.

Yoshiro Nakamura, executive director-general at NHK's engineering headquarters, said in a news conference that NHK will begin broadcasting through the new satellite at 0400 JST on 30 November. Japan Satellite Broadcasting will start test transmissions tomorrow. The two stations will officially start broadcasting on three channels via Yuri-3A on 30 November.

NHK programs presently broadcast on satellite Channel number 15 will be broadcast on Channel Seven, although viewers will be able to continue watching on Channel 15 until the end of January.

Programs now broadcast on Channel 11 will remain on the same channel.

Satellite Communications Pact Signed With DPRK

OW2911141190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—Japan and North Korea signed an agreement in Pyongyang on Thursday to open a direct circuit via satellite between the two countries, North Korea's KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (KCNA) said.

The KCNA report said the agreement was signed by Kim Yong-ryong, chief engineer of North Korea's International Communications Bureau, and Yasuo Koseki, director of Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co.(KDD).

Further on Agreement

OW2911175490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo. Nov. 29 KYODO - Japan's international telecommunications giant, Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD), signed an agreement with North Korea on Thursday to open a direct circuit via intelsat satellite between the two countries, a KDD spokesman said.

Under the agreement, signed in Pyongyang, three telephone circuits and l0 telex circuits will be established later in the year if everything goes well, he said. He also said KDD agreed with North Korea to start international television transmission service if necessary.

Conference Calls for More Japanese Investment

OW2911140290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Fukuoka, Nov. 29 KYODO—Business leaders from South East Asia called for more direct investment from Japan at their annual conference Thursday with Japanese counterparts.

The two-day conference, the 16th ASEAN-Japanese businessmen's meeting supported by the Japan Association of Corporative Executives (Doyukai), is to promote economic cooperation between business leaders in Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On the first day of the conference, discussions centered on promotion of direct investment at the private levels.

ASEAN representatives urged Japanese companies operating in their countries to buy more local parts and materials for production, hire more local people, and transfer more technologies.

Tan Sri Dato Zainal, chairman of the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority, said such activities might take a considerably long time, but it is important for Japanese companies to make efforts to further strengthen mutual ties.

In response, Masaru Hayami, chairman of Nissho Iwai Corp., said the need to train labor at many small- and medium-sized factories in ASEAN nations is a problem that should be tackled locally in order to promote investment from Japan.

Further privatization of state-run organizations and establishment of a better climate for financial markets also were urged by many Japanese participants.

A total of 60 representatives from five of the six ASEAN countries, except for Brunei, attended the meeting. There were 78 Japanese participants, including Doyukai Chairman Takashi Ishihara, who is chairman of Nissan Motor Co.

Corporate Profits Unaffected by External Factors

OW2811122590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Corporate profitability will remain unaffected by external factors such as the Middle East crisis in fiscal 1990, a Bank of Japan report said Wednesday.

The report noted sales and current profits by major manufacturinose to the highest level in 16 years in fiscal 1989.

The report attributed the healthy growth of Japanese corporations mainly to their efforts to streamline their operations and expand their own capital.

Citing a survey on 379 major manufacturers capitalized at 1 billion yen or more, the report said their sales-profit ratio in fiscal 1989 rose 0.36 points to 6.01 percent, the highest since fiscal 1973 when it stood at 6.23 percent.

The ratio for the raw materials sector remained unchanged at 7.12 percent because of the yen's appreciation and rising prices of raw materials, but that for the processing industry gained 0.55 points to 5.49 percent, the report said.

The profit ratio for the nonmanufacturing sector, excluding trading firms, rose 0.19 points to 3.73 percent, it said.

The report noted that the value of financial assets owned by manufacturers was 1.2 times larger than their liabilities.

Despite the worsening external environment such as the yen's appreciation and higher crude oil prices, profitability of major Japanese enterprises will remain stable in fiscal 1990.

Slower Growth Than BOJ Prediction Expected

OW2911131490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 29 KYODO—Japanese financial institutions said in their economic outlook for fiscal 1991 Thursday that they expect the nation's actual economic growth to be around 3.5 percent, slower than that predicted by the Bank of Japan (BOJ).

Industry analysts said the difference in expectations between the monetary authority and Japanese companies would affect the central bank's stance in monetary policy.

BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno said in his regular press meeting Wednesday that he has "no preconception" for the outlook of the economy because there is much uncertainty such as crude oil prices and other factors. Backed by such an attitude, the central bank has stressed the nation's economy is brisk, and for now is trying to cool down the market's expectation of lower interest rates.

However, seven financial firms and economic think tanks reported an average of 3.5 percent actual growth for fiscal 1991, which begins April 1, 1991, down 2 percentage points from 5.5 percent growth expected for fiscal 1990.

The Saigin Research Institute and the Sumitomo-Life Research Institute, each very optimistic in their growth forecasts, are predicting 3.9 percent growth. Tokai Bank was the least optimistic, predicting only 3 percent growth.

Sumitomo-Life Research said, however, that brisk consumer spending would continue to help the nation's economy. The research institute said the current economic boom, which began at the end of 1986, might last longer than the last economic boom, which stretched uninterrupted for 57 months, from October 1965 to July 1970.

Many of the research groups foresaw higher value of the yen against the U.S. dollar due to a slowdown in the U.S. economy. This could stabilize inflationary pressures on consumer prices while Japan's economy slows down, they predicted. Inflationary pressure will therefore be reduced and the official discount rate will be cut from the current 6.0 percent, several of the research institutes predicted.

Even if there is no such reduction in the key lending rate, interest rates will definitely decline, researchers at Sumitomo Research Group said.

A cut in the long-term prime lending rate for December was decided for the second straight month amid growing prospects of lower interest rates.

The central bank has been holding back from such moves, with some officials commenting that lowering interest rates only because of speculation of an economic slowdown might be premature.

Mieno Says BOJ To Keep Tight Grip on Credit

OW2811120390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno indicated Wednesday the central bank will maintain its tight grip on credit, leaving as it is the widening gap between its key lending rate and the market.

Speaking at a regular press conference, Mieno said that despite higher oil prices and the heating economy prices are relatively stable at present, compared with the past two oil crises. But the booming economy, which is tightening the product and labor market, and uncertainty over the Gulf, pose a combined threat to price stability, he said. "We will continue to watch prices carefully," Mieno said.

Commenting on the recent downward trend in the long-term prime rate, Mieno hinted that the BOJ is not concerned about it, saying that "the market is the market." "The long-term prime rate reflects the short-term movements of the market but the BOJ's monetary policy should be viewed more from a long-term perspective," he said.

The BOJ will continue to set its monetary policy on the basis of a basket of factors, such as foreign exchange rates and import prices.

Apparently in expectation of a slowdown in the Japanese economy, the nation's three long-term credit banks have decided to lower their long-term prime rate for December by 0.2 percentage point to 8.1 percent.

Touching on Japan's economic health, Mieno said the nation's economic growth will continue at least through the end of the current fiscal year until March 31.

Concerning a flagging confidence in the economy showed in Japan's leading business indicator for September, Mieno said he does not believe the figure will become a reality in the near future.

The government reported Tuesday that the nation's leading index of economic indicators, a key barometer of future economic performance, plunged to 27.3 percent in September, the first fall below the 50 percent "boom or bust" mark in seven months.

Mieno, however, cautioned that the Gulf turmoil and other uncertain factors might cloud Japan's economic outlook beyond that. Mieno also repeated his earlier view that the economy should cool somewhat to secure sustained economic growth as well as price stability. "Japan's economic growth, viewed from the price front, is too speedy," he said. Mieno said last week that Japan's economic expansion should slow down to around 4 percent annually from the current 5 percent growth.

Assessing the sharp earning declines posted by Japanese financial institutions for the first half of fiscal 1990, Mieno said that it is because of higher interest rates and the slump of the Tokyo stock and bond markets. But he was optimistic that the institutions can fulfill the capital adequacy ratio set by the bank for international settlements (BIS) by the deadline in early 1993. "It is true that financial deregulation and globalization has been squeezing their operations," he said. "But if they make steadfast efforts toward sound management, they can achieve the 8 percent target by then."

Asked about the recent growth in foreign banks' lending to so-called nonbank institutions, Mieno said he does not think that trend will last long, if rising rates and increasingly cautious stances toward lending among bankers are taken into account.

With financial authorities keeping a watchful eye on real estate-related loans, some bankers are now making such loans through leasing firms and other nonbank institutions.

With the surge of business failures of companies that have heavily depended on loans from nonbanks, the governor said the phenomenon is a natural result of excesseive investments by these companies in properties and securities over the past few years.

North Korea

S. Defense Chief's Arms Buildup Remarks Decried

SK3011053090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0025 GMT 23 Nov 90

[NODONG SINMUN 23 November commentary: "The Traitorous Ring That Sharpens the Sword Behind the Dialogue"]

[Text] Yi Chong-ku, puppet defense minister, speaking on 20 November at the National Assembly Defense Committee, which discussed the budget for next year, made a bellicose outburst on accelerating war preparations.

He stated that the puppet Defense Ministry will further strengthen the combat capability of the three services of the puppet Armed Forces by creating a mechanized infantry division and providing more tanks and assault helicopters to build up the combat capability of the ground forces; by building submarines, securing ship-to-ship missiles to strengthen the combat strength of the Navy; and purchasing various kinds of radars and electronic war equipment to enhance advance warning capabilities.

This means the South Korean puppets are scheming to build up arms next year as well and to openly dash along the road of confrontation and war with us. We must regard this as a grave matter.

In the North, South, and overseas, our nation's aspiration to soon achieve peace and reunification of the country is being heated up more and more each day. The North-South High-Level Talks are in progress, reflecting the ardent aspiration of the fellow countrymen for the reunification of the country. Through the proposal by our side, the agenda of the talks covers the issue of ending the political and military confrontation between the North and South and, in particular, of adopting the declaration for nonaggression between the North and South.

If the South side values North-South dialogue and desires peaceful reunification, as demanded by the nation, it should not be bent on building up arms and war through a northward invasion. Nevertheless, the head of the South Korean military raved before the National Assembly about strengthening combat capabilities. This is firm proof that the South Korean ruling bunch is not interested in North-South dialogue or the nation's aspiration for reunification, but only seeks North-South confrontation and war.

One should remember a series of war conferences the South Korean puppets recently held with the U.S. aggressors behind the scenes of North-South dialogue. At the 22d annual security consultative meeting, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets held a conference on accelerating war preparations, such as maintaining the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea as they are and continuing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

The day before the puppet defense minister's ravings before the National Assembly about increasing combat capabilities, the U.S. Defense Department informed the U.S. Congress of its plan to hand over to South Korea war equipment, such as assault helicopters, shells, and antitank weapons, worth $356 million to help modernize the South Korean puppet Armed Forces. This is not a coincidence.

The South Korean puppets make sweet remarks about confidence-building, detente, and peaceful reunification when they meet us for dialogue, but what they really seek is to provoke a war of northward invasion following the U.S. imperialist aggressors' war policy. The defense minister's outburst on war concerning increasing the puppet Armed Forces' combat capabilities has confirmed this once more.

It is an antinational crime not to show enthusiasm toward the dialogue on peace and reunification of the country, being bent instead on provoking a war of northward invasion in collusion with the aggression forces. The South Korean puppets who sharpen the sword of aggression against fellow countrymen cannot escape denunciation by the nation. Our nation now is closely watching the bellicose, rash act by the South Korean puppets. The entire world, not just the nation, will never forgive the traitorous ring its criminal war maneuvers.

South Criticized on Nuclear-Free Zone Issue

SK3011071690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1148 GMT 27 Nov 90

[By station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Talking Nonsense, Which Is Just Like Servant of Nuclear War"]

[Text] Making the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone appears to be a very urgent issue in maintaining and consolidating Korea's peace today and in guaranteeing peace in Asia and the world.

Therefore, we have repeatedly put forth rational proposals for making the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone. We spare no sincere effort to achieve this and our proposals and efforts are gaining great support and sympathy from the world's people.

However, the South Korean puppets are joining hands with the U.S. imperialists and are opposing the realization of a nuclear-free zone on the Korean peninsula.

In a bull session with reporters on 24 November, the so-called puppet foreign minister concluded that the issue of making the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone is unrealistic. He also grumbled repeatedly that in reality they are under the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella and that they are following the nuclear policy of the United States which does not even admit or deny the existence of nuclear weapons.

Regarding this nonsense, the people inevitably will be dumb-stricken at those who have forgotten the humiliation and have thrown away their conscience and will be astonished at how that kind of brazen-faced doggedness and absurd remarks can be carried out.

This is truly nonsensical talk which can only come from the most intent colonial cat's-paw of the U.S. imperialists and a servant of nuclear war. We can say that this is an open challenge to the peace-loving public opinion at home and abroad.

The puppet Foreign Ministry talked about East Asian military relations, where enormous military capability is dispatched in the neighboring countries, and about the highly developed transportation systems for nuclear weapons. He also said that the claim of making the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone is unrealistic. This is an unreasonable sophistry.

The problem is that the puppets are purposely avoiding the stark reality of not wanting to achieve a nuclear-free zone.

The reason the Korean peninsula today has become a nuclear hotbed, the most dangerous area in terms of exploding, is because more than anything else, South Korea is becoming a nuclear advanced base of the U.S. imperialists.

Some 1,000 various nuclear weapons currently are dispatched in South Korea. Its density is four times greater compared with the NATO region.

The U.S. imperialists have dispatched almost all the nuclear weapons which they have developed into South Korea. This ranges from a neutron bomb, which is called the most vicious weapon of the 20th Century, to the nuclear knapsack. Thinking that this is not even sufficient, the U.S. imperialists are continuing to bring new nuclear weapons and means of transporting these nuclear weapons into South Korea.

Also, nuclear war exercises such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are being carried out frequently in South Korea.

The stark reality shows that the source of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is the U.S. imperialists who are making South Korea into a nuclear base, and with this as a springboard they are strengthening maneuvers for a nuclear war.

Because of this, public opinion at home and abroad is stressing the need to withdraw the U.S. imperialists' nuclear weapons and aggressive forces from South Korea and make the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone where there are no nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, the reason the puppets are shaking their heads to this practical proposal—while pretending to be a blind fool—is simply that they are blindly and indiscriminately following and trying to protect the U.S. nuclear war maneuvers.

This was further vividly manifested when the puppet Foreign Ministry proudly declared that they are under the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella and that they are following the nuclear policy of the United States which does not admit or deny the existence of nuclear weapons.

If they had even one bit of conscience, how could those people think about the nation's fate and brazenly say that they are under the protection of the nuclear umbrella? They have even left the U.S. imperialists alone so that they can bring in and accumulate large amounts of nuclear weapons into South Korea; they have entrusted their rights completely to the master so that they can use the nuclear weapons.

Also, the U.S. imperialist aggressors changed the whole land of South Korea into a nuclear explosive warehouse and nuclear launching base without even receiving approval from anyone. Just like that of a parrot saying the same words repeatedly, they then impertinently said over and over again that they are not admitting or denying the existence of nuclear weapons. How can there be even the slightest national pride in these lily-livered traitors?

It is clear that the No Tae-u ring is indeed a wicked traitorous group that is trying to maintain the remainder of its doomed life under the protection of the masters, the U.S. imperialists, by currying favor with them, even though our nation is driven into nuclear disaster and our land which belongs to our forefathers is destroyed.

Therefore, to remove the dark cloud of a nuclear war that is hanging over the Korean peninsula, it will be inevitable to strongly carry out the struggle to obstruct and destroy the puppet's nation- selling maneuvers, which are blindly following the U.S. imperialists, along with the nuclear war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists.

If the No Tae-u ring continues to recklessly follow the nuclear war policy of the U.S. imperialists while opposing the nuclear-free zone of the Korean peninsula, it will have to face greater denunciation and criticism by the people at home and abroad and also inevitably pay a high price.

Antigovernment Rallies in South Viewed

SK2911071190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique cracked down on participants in rallies held across South Korea on November 25 to urge the resignation of the No Tae-u "regime," leaving 49 persons wounded and whisking away 451.

Charging that the No group incriminated the people's rallies and sent more than 20,000 riot police to suppress them indiscriminately, NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today brands this as an unpardonable criminal act.

The news analyst says:

It is only too natural that the people of broad strata in South Korea should rise in struggle under the slogan of resignation of the No Tae-u "regime."

The present "regime" of the No group is entirely to blame for the ever worsening political and economic crisis and social confusion in South Korea.

The fascist clique has issued repressive orders against the patriotic democratic forces almost every day on the pretext of "a war against crimes," mobilizing even puppet public officials, not content with the mobilization of the puppet army, in the crackdown on the people.

South Korea has turned into a pandemonium of fascism in the true sense of the word.

Such fascist outrages of the No group are the last-ditch efforts of those doomed to destruction; it is an expression of the weak, not of the strong.

Frantic repressive offensive will only precipitate their own destruction.

'Martyr' in South Awarded Graduation Diploma

SK2011050190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 20 (KCNA)—The 40th graduation ceremony of the Kim Chaek University of Technology was held here Monday, at which a diploma was awarded to an honorary student of the university martyr Han Yong-hyon who was a student of the Engineering College of Hanyang University of South Korea.

Chon Che-kwan, deputy president of the university in charge of the general affairs, in his report on educational matters, said that a diploma was being awarded to Martyr Han Yong-hyon who devoted his youth to the democratisation of the South Korean society and the self-determined reunification of the country at the graduation ceremony today. This, he noted, will be our powerful support and encouragement to the patriotic students and people of South Korea who are determined to smash the new war of provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae[illegible] puppet clique and achieve the reunification of the country at any cost.

The dean of the machine engineering faculty received the diploma on behalf of Han Yong-hyon.

Speeches expressing resolution were made and a letter to the parents of Han Yong-hyon to be sent through radio was read at the ceremony.

The sight and the voice of the martyr who made a passionate speech in front of the April 19 Monument, urging that the blood shed by brothers and sisters and their patriotic soul should be kept alive set their hearts of the fellow students of the North and the South aboil with the blood of patriotism, the letter said. It expressed the belief that the parents of the martyr will as ever powerfully rouse the entire students in the South to the noble struggle for independence, democracy and reunification with the warm heart with which they brought up their son as a son of the motherland.

We will study and work, doing the share of Han Yong-hyon, too, with the feeling of always living with him, the letter stressed.

U.S. Troops Reportedly Threatened S. Protestors

SK2911114190 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—The "Coalition for National Democratic Movement" (Chonminnyon), the "National Council of Trade Unions" (Chonnohyop) and other dissident organisations reportedly issued a statement on November 24, charging that American soldiers in Uijongbu City on November 20 drove tanks to workers [as received] who were demanding a wage hike and, earlier, on November 19 they wielded axe handles at workers and their families. They demanded a probe into the incidents, an open apology on the part of the U.S. Army and punishment of those involved in them.

O Chin-u Visits Iranian Coastal City

SK3011121490 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 2100 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Some members of our country's military delegation led by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, on a current visit to Iran, left the capital city of Tehran and arrived at Bandar Abbas, a coastal city on 28 November.

The delegation was accompanied by commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Navy; commander of the Iranian Navy Corps; representatives of the leaders of the Islamic Revolution dispatched to Islamic Revolution Guard and Navy headquarters of the Corps; vice general chief of staff of the Islamic Revolutioary Guard; and officials concerned.

At the airport, the delegation was met by commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard and related bases in this city, by the representatives of the leaders of the Islamic Revolution dispatched to this city, and by officials concerned. In addition, the delegation reviewed an honor guard.

At the same day, the delegation participated in the banquet jointly arranged by commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Navy and deputy commander of the Navy Forces of Iranian Corps.

Next, the delegation watched the joint Armed Forces demonstration of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Navy forces of the Iranian Corps.

Reportage on Defense Minister's Visit to Iran

WA29111900

For reportage on the visit to Iran by O Chin-u, Minister of the People's Armed Forces and acting commander in chief, including reports on his meetings with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics Torkan, and other officials, please see the Iran section of the 28 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Cuban Counterpart in Havana

SK2911074390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0527 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Havana November 27 (KCNA)—Talks were held Monday in Havana between Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the DPRK Kim Yong-nam and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli.

They exchanged views on a series of matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Cuban Military Anniversary Commemorated

SK2811135390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1045 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—A soldiers' meeting was held today at the unit of the Korean People's Army to which Comrade Ok Pong-nin belongs on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the day of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Present on invitation were Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim Javier Perez and the military attache of the Cuban Embassy here.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

Yi Chong-ok Meets Cuban Sports Delegation

SK2711113190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok today met a delegation of the Cuban National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation headed by its Vice-President Alberto Juantorena Dancer and conversed with it in a friendly atmosphere at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present there were Vice-Chairman of the State Sports Commission Yi Chang-son and Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim of the Cuban Embassy here Javier Perez.

Vacation Group Returns From Visit to China

SK2711112090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—The party workers' vacation group of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, returned home today by air after a visit to China.

It was met at the airport by Vice-Director of a department of the WPK Central Committee Kwon Min-chun and Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim of the Chinese Embassy here Chiang Zhengcai.

Dailies Express Solidarity With Palestinians

SK2911113990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today dedicate by-lined articles to the "Day of World Solidarity With the Palestinian People", which stress that the Korean people extend firm support and warm militant greetings to the fighting Palestinian people and resistance fighters.

The author of a NODONG SINMUN article says:

The struggle of the Palestinian people and resistance fighters is a sacred struggle and the cause of justice to terminate the Israeli invaders' occupation, retake the lost territory of their country and completely rebmre the legitimate national rights. For this validity, the Palestinian people's struggle is being fully supported and encouraged by the world progressive people.

Many countries of the world recognized the state of Palestine and voices supporting the Palestine people's cause of justice are ringing out loud at international meetings.

The Palestinian people are staunchly fighting for the cause of justice amid the world progressive people's support and encouragement.

The more the Zionists intensify their moves the further the struggle of the Palestinian people is gaining momentum.

The Korean people have always stood firm on the side of the Palestinian people and will as ever fully support their struggle till their final victory.

The Palestinian issue must be solved only in accordance with the will and demands of the Palestinian people.

The struggle of the Palestinian people to retake their lost country and achieve their legitimate rights will surely emerge victorious.

Kim Sends Message to Korean Youth in Japan

SK2311005090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Message from Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, to "the meeting of forerunners of the Korean youth in Japan," (League of Korean Youth in Japan—Chochong) on 17 November]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent a congratulatory message to the meeting of forerunners of the Korean youth in Japan.

The message reads:

Tokyo, Japan

To the meeting of the forerunners of the Korean youth in Japan:

On the occasion of the meeting of forerunners of the Korean youth in Japan, an event of significance in inheriting and developing Chongnyon's [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] patriotic cause, I offer my warm congratulations to the participants in the meeting and to all the Korean youth in Japan.

Today, at a historic moment when the ardent desire of the Korean people in the North, South, and abroad for reunification has grown unprecedentedly and new changes are taking place in the development of the movement of the Koreans in Japan, it is wonderful that young Korean activists in Japan gather to hold a meeting of the forerunners.

In the past, the functionaries of the League of Korean Youth in Japan [Chochong] and young activists have devoted their passion and wisdom of youth to building up the organization of Chochong, overcoming all difficulties, even under the difficulties of an alien land, and credibly played the vanguard role in carrying out the patriotic tasks of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

Thanks to the energetic activity and effort of the Chochong functionaries and young activists, the chuche idea system has been firmly established in all Chochong organizations at all levels, the ranks of the core youth who are to take over the patriotic work have greatly lengthened, and the young compatriots and students from all walks of life are rallied firmly around the socialist fatherland.

The Chochong functionaries and young activists have greatly contributed to the fatherland's prosperity, wealth, and development by always identifying the destiny of the young compatriots with that of the socialist fatherland and by actively stirring up their patriotic zeal.

Many monuments built in the fatherland are associated with the warm patriotic zeal and anonymous contributions of the Korean youth and students in Japan who boundlessly love the socialist fatherland, together with the heroic feats of the homeland's youth.

Taking great pride in having such patriotic youth abroad as those in Japan, who are loyal to the fatherland and the nation, I highly praise the achievements of the Chochong organization and young men and women in their patriotic work.

The Chochong and the Korean youth in Japan now face a heavy yet honorable task to invariably inherit and develop the Korean movement in Japan, which has vigorously advanced along the single path of victory and glory under the banner of the chuche idea, into a chuche-oriented patriotic movement.

The prospects for Chongnyon and the future of the Korean movement in Japan depend on the Korean youth in Japan, the successor and link to the patriotic cause.

All Chochong functionaries and young activists, deeply conscious of the lofty mission they must undertake for the fatherland and the nation, should teach young compatriots to be reliable successors to the patriotic cause and show them how to ensure, through a lifetime of patriotic work, that their parents' precious successes will continue to bloom.

The Chochong functionaries and young activists should concentrate primarily on the ideological indoctrination of the compatriot youth.

The Chochong organizations should strengthen chuche ideological indoctrination for the broad range of the young compatriots from all walks of life to raise them as genuine patriots armed with the chuche-oriented outlook on the world, helping them find a genuinely rewarding life and youthful happiness in discharging Chongnyon's patriotic tasks.

At the same time, they should make the young compatriots ardently love the socialist fatherland, glorify national pride and honor with the spirit of Korea, the national spirit, and firmly defend their own language and national characteristics by intensifying education on patriotism and love for their own people.

The Chochong functionaries and young activists should keep Chochong's organizations at all levels working well and increase their responsiblities.

Only when the youth, the most active unit in society, are constantly at the forefront of activity will Chongnyon's patriotic work as a whole become brisk and advance with vigor.

With burning passion and youthful spirit, the Chochong functionaries and youth activists should ensure that young Koreans in Japan push the national reunification movement even more vigorously and that young compatriots take the lead in all areas of the Chongnyon's patriotic work.

Chongnyon's organizations should keep Chochong's functionaries working well, give them prominence, and guarantee them satisfactory business and living conditions so young Koreans in Japan can brilliantly inherit the cause of Chongnyon's patriotic work.

Believing that the current meeting of the forerunners of the Korean youth in Japan will serve as an epoch-making turning point in developing the young Koreans' movement in Japan, I wish the meeting wonderful success in its work.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK

[Dated] 17 November 1990 Pyongyang

KCNA Reviews 30 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK3011060090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—All newspapers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the construction site of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex.

Dailies print a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il- song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the independence of Barbados.

President Kim Il-song received a letter from a seminar held in Somalia on the lapse of 10 years since he advanced the proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo, according to the press.

MINJU CHOSON tells a story that President Kim Il-song gave meticulous teachings to the commanding officers of the anti- Japanese guerrilla army so that they might do well political work during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article saying that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has led officials to live and work with boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

Given in the press is an account of a meeting of the agricultural working people on the Ponghwa Cooperative Farm in Kangdong County held to thoroughly implement the on-the-spot teachings of President Kim Il-song.

Economic news of the press includes reports about innovations being effected in the production of electricity at the Taedonggang Power Complex and brisk preparations for new year's farming at rural communities across the country.

Given in the press is an account of the sojourn of the DPRK military delegation in Iran.

A national meeting was held to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, says the press.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that the International Institute of the Chuche Idea published "Paekbong Library" No. 66 and the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea the bulletin "Age of Chuche" No. 32.

In an article entitled "We Will Follow the Party for Ever", MINJU CHOSON tells about the party members of the second party cell of the department no. 5 of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the national secretary general of the People's Action Party of Peru met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, a UNESCO traveling exhibition of arts (Chinese part) opened in Pyongyang and that an agreement on opening direct circuit via satellite between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan was signed here.

Conveyed in the daily are world public voices supporting the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo.

The press gives an account of the first North-South sports talks regarding the participation of the North and the South in major international games as a single team.

South Korean news of the press includes a report that university students saw the DPRK-made film "The Flower Girl".

Spotlighted in the press is an answer given by the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK to the question of a KCNA reporter as regards the desperate efforts of the South Korean authorities to obstruct the normalisation of DPRK-Japan relations at the "South Korea-Japan regular ministerial meeting."

NODONG SINMUN conveys what political and public figures of different countries said in praise of the might of the DPRK united with one mind.

An article of MINJU CHOSON urges the South side to attach prime importance to the elimination of the political and military confrontation and take a positive stand toward solving it.

According to the press, Japanese figures of different strata fully supported the normalisation of the Japan-DPRK relations.

International news columns of the press include reports that the defence minister of the Soviet Union referred to measures against illegal acts endangering the national defence, the supreme Soviet of the RSFSR approved of the state annuity law, the 5th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was held and that a plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam took place.

The press introduces Barbados.

In a monthly review of the international situation, the press says that the U.S. imperialists are hell bent on war preparations behind the curtain of "peace".

New Publication of Classic Works Issued

SK2811134590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—The International Institute of the Chuche Idea printed "Paekbong Library" No. 66 carrying immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song and works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. Under the title of "Korea's Policy Towards Intellectuals" it carries immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song—"Tasks Confronting Intellectuals in Nation-Building", "Talk With Hong Myong-hui," "4. On the Composition of Party Membership and Some Other Questions" from "On the Method of Party Work," "On the Correct Implementation of Our Party's Policy Towards Intellectuals," "3. Consolidation of the Political and Ideological Unity of All the People" of "I. Great Results" from "Report to the Fifth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the Work of the Central Committee" and "Role of Intellectuals in the Building of New Independent Society".

It also carries "3. On Improving the Training of Technicians and Specialists and Promoting the Intellectual Development of the Whole Society" from Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "On Further Developing Educational Work."

Also edited in it is an article proving the validity and vitality of the Workers' Party of Korea's policy towards intellectuals under the subtitles "Role of Intellectuals in Revolutionary Struggle," "Dual Character of Intellectuals and its Settlement," "Revolutionization and Working- Classization of Intellectuals," "Role of Intellectuals in the Building of New Independent Society" and "Intellectualization of the Whole Society" and etc.

Yi Chong-ok Attends GFTUK Anniversary

SK3011053490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held in Pyongyang on November 29 to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK).

In his report to the meeting, Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the GFTUK, said that the great leader President Kim Il-song founded the GFTUK on November 30, 1945. With its foundation, it became possible to firmly unite the worker masses organisationally and ideologically around the party and the leader, the reporter added.

He said that the federation, as a transmission belt linking the party with the masses, has united the working class behind the party by educating it in a revolutionary way, so that it might creditably carry out the political and economic tasks assigned it by the party.

He emphasized the need to firmly build up the trade union ranks politically and ideologically and establish a strict revolutionary working system and discipline within it, thus making it move as one body under the leadership of the party and carry out all its work according to the ideology and intention of the party.

Education in the chuche idea should be intensified among the trade union members so that they may resolutely defend the great party, the leader of the revolution, and fight it out to implement the designs of the party.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President Yi Chong-ok and officials concerned.

Editorial Views Strength of Party Organizations

SK3011070390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0008 GMT 24 Nov 90

[NODONG SINMUN 24 November editorial: "Let Us Further Enhance the Militant Strength of the Party Organizations."]

[Text] This year's struggle to brilliantly embroider the first year of the 1990's is now entering a final stage. To victoriously finish this year's struggle and to constantly effect a great upsurge in socialist construction, the militant strength of the party organizations should be further enhanced.

The party is organized by the party organizations at every level. Thus, the party's power is related to the militant strength of the party organizations. Only when the militant strength of the party organizations at every level is enhanced can the entire party be strengthened and the party leadership toward the socialist cause be thoroughly enacted.

Today in our country, the revolution and construction are vigorously advancing along a single road of victory. This is unthinkable apart from our party's wise leadership, and our party has always paid much attention to enhancing the military strength of the its organizations. Only when the militant functions and roles of the party organizations are constantly enhanced can we powerfully and constantly press ahead with the revolution and construction under the banner of the chuche idea.

The militant strength of the party organizations should be, above all, displayed in thoroughly carrying out the line, policy, decisions, and instruction of the party.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, has noted: In adhering to the work of thoroughly carrying out the great leader's instruction and the party's policy unconditionally, all party organizations and party functionaries should concentrate all their efforts on this work.

Thoroughly carrying out the line, policy, decisions, and instruction of the party is an important demand for firmly guaranteeing the strategic and tactical leadership toward the socialist cause. Our party has always brightly opened the future road of socialism by forming correct strategy and tactics for the struggle. The party organizations are precisely assigned the heavy task of organizing and guiding the work to carry out all lines, policies, decisions, and instructions of the party.

All party organizations should take correct implementation measures and concrete plans through collective discussions according to the party's decision and guidance. They should properly carry out the work of organizing a division of labor. In addition, they should normally grasp the process of carrying out the work, sum it up at a proper time, constantly deepen rearrangement work, thereby seeing to it that the party policy produces good results.

All lines and policies of our party are based on the chuche idea. Deeply bearing in mind that thoroughly carrying out the party's line and policy is precisely an important work for victoriously pressing ahead with the socialist cause under the banner of the chuche idea, the party organizations should firmly set up the revolutionary ethos of realizing the party's intention through thick and thin.

However enormous a work may be and however difficult a condition may be, all party organizations with the spirit of resoluteness and unconditionality should display their militant strength through the struggle to carry out the party's decisions and instructions absolutely, according to the demand of the slogan, "Once the party is determined, we will carry anything out."

In addition, we should enhance the spirit of organization and discipline so as to strengthen the militant strength of the party organizations. The revolutionary spirit of organization and discipline is not only a lifeblood of the working class party, but also a wellspiring in enhancing the militant strength of the party organizations. Only when the spirit of organization and discipline is enhanced can the entire party be a militant unit which is organized monolithically and which acts unanimously according to a unitary discipline.

Our party has brilliantly discharged its mission as the general staff of the revolution in victoriously organizing and leading the socialist cause under any circumstances. This is because our party has a strong spirit of organization and discipline. The party organizations at every level should firmly guarantee the unitary idea and leadership of the entire party by thoroughly embodying the democratic centralist principle.

In addition, the party organizations at every level should ensure that all party members acquire correct concepts about the party organizations, always work and live according to the party organizations, and thoroughly maintain the order and norms which have been set up in the party. By strengthening ideas, will, and unity in activities based on the party's unitary ideology system, all party organizations should be changed into a firm militant organization.

The militant strength of the party organizations also should be displayed in responsibly and brilliantly carrying out the revolutionary tasks assigned to each unit. The goal of enhancing the militant strength of the party organizations lies in trying to successfully carry out the revolution and construction. Only when the party organizations at every level and at every unit properly carry out the revolutionary tasks, can the party's political leadership toward the economic work be further guaranteed.

A key for the party organizations to carry out successfully the revolutionary tasks assigned to them lies in highly inspiring the revolutionary enthusiasm, creativity, and initiative of broad segments of the masses. This can be done by constantly deepening work with the people.

The party committees at every level should thoroughly carry out the revolutionary line in economic management as required by the demand of the Taean work system, and should make correct directions in economic works.

The drum of political propaganda and economic agitation should be loudly beaten at all construction sites, including the construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex and the construction of Tongil Street in capital.

Constant emotional voices are ringing out in the every nook and cranny of the country, responding to the reply letter sent by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the party members of the second cell of the Fifth Department of the Korean Central News Agency [KCNA].

All party organizations should have endless pride and confidence in serving the great leader [yongdoja] as head of the party, like the party members of the second cell of the Fifth department of KCNA did. They should uphold their loyalty and filial piety absolutely. They should vigorously launch organizational and political work to create a miracle and innovation in carrying out the revolutionary tasks.

The party organizations at every level, including the prior domains of the national economy, should further kindle the flames to create speed in the 1990's; should brilliantly complete this year's militant tasks; and should make great efforts in carefully preparing for next year's production.

The party organizations, which have strong militant strength, should carry out the revolutionary tasks assigned to them with their own strength at all costs. All party organizations, including the party organizations at plants and enterprises, should strengthen the struggle for conservation among functionaries and the working people and mobilize inner reserves. Thereby, they should highly display the self-reliant revolutionary ethos of carrying out assigned revolutionary tasks.

In enhancing the militant strength of the party organizations, it is important to enhance the roles of the party functionaries and responsible functionaries in particular. As shown in reality, if all party organizations in the counties act briskly and if the general county work proceeds properly, the roles of the responsible functionaries at the county party committees should be enhanced.

How much militant strength all units—including plants, enterprises, and cooperatives—have depends on the ideological obligation, work style, and work method of the responsible functionaries of the pertinent units. The party functionaries at every level should responsibly discharge their duties, deeply bearing in mind the belief and expectation of the party, which has given honorary tasks to them.

The functionaries, who have responsibility for the party organizations, should take pride in being party functionaries of the motherly party. They should be a model for the masses in leading organizational and ideological life and carrying out the revolutionary tasks. They should always loyally serve the people and correctly lead the party organizations and party members, being full of revolutionary vigor and enthusiasm.

Along with this, the party functionaries should firmly arm themselves with the chuche-oriented party work theory created by our party and constantly enhance their own political and working quality.

The party functionaries should carry out their work through the party-oriented and political method as required by the Chongsan-ri spirit and method. They should always go down to the masses, while upholding the slogan, "Let us, entire party, go down to the masses." They should indoctrinate and mobilize the masses, while sharing woe and weal with them. They should firmly rally the masses around the party and resolutely carry out any revolutionary duties.

The party cell is the infrastructural organization of our party. Only when all party cells are sound and strong can the strength of the entire grow and the revolutionary vigor of the entire country become more vibrant. All units should firmly render the party cells strong in revolutionary spirit and vibrant in militancy. They should further enhance the roles of the party cell.

Our party strength and the militant strength of the party organizations precisely mean strength of unity and solidarity. The party organizations at every level should consolidate our party's political and ideological unity in every way by firmly arming the entire party members and working people with the great chuche idea. They should prevent any ideological currents against our chuche idea from being infiltrated under any circumstances.

We should always have high revolutionary vigilance and trample underfoot the frantic antisocialist moves of the imperialists at every step. We should lead work and life in a revolutionary and militant way and thus should firmly safeguard and complete the socialist cause to the end.

Symposium on Kim Chong-il's Work Held

SK2911010690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1518 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—A central symposium on the work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il "The Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Organizes and Guides all the Victories of our People" was held today at the People's Palace of Culture.

Present at the symposium were Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, and officials concerned.

The speakers noted that the work is a militant programme clarifying the fundamental principles of building a working class party in our era and the way to achieve the final victory of the cause of socialism.

They explained that the work gives a scientific exposition of the idea of strengthening the leadership of the party and thus gives perfect answers to the basic questions arising in accomplishing the cause of socialism in the present period.

The work, they emphasized, expounds the idea that in the present period when the socialist cause is faced with a grave challenge of the imperialists the party leadership is a decisive guarantee for the victory of the socialist cause.

By clearly indicating the fundamental principles and way of strengthening the party and enhancing its militancy and leadership role the work gives overall answers to the fundamental questions arising in building the working-class party at present, they stressed.

They also pointed out that the work also defines it as the fundamental way of fulfilling the party's mission and duty to strengthen the party's leadership by putting main stress on the work with people and thus gives a scientific explanation to the fundamental question of party building.

South Korea

North Premier Yon Hyong-muk's PRC Visit Viewed

SK3011050490 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
29 Nov 90 p 2

[Article by CHOSON ILBO correspondent Pak Sung-chun in Hong Kong, entitled "Summing Up North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk's Visit to China"]

[Text] On 28 November, the North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk returned to Pyongyang from Beijing, ending his six-day visit to China. The recent visit of Premier Yon, who arrived in Beijing on 23 November by special plane, was announced by China's government-operated XINHUA News Agency as a "five-day official visit until 27 November." However, his visit was extended by one day. The Chinese authorities have not elaborated on the reason for the extension of his "official visit." However, it appears that there were some disagreements in the consultations with the Chinese side during Premier Yon's visit to China.

In any case, as expressed by Chinese Premier Li Peng during farewell talks on 27 November, the Chinese side appraised Premier Yon's visit to China as "generally successful."

During his visit to China, Premier Yon held one round of "official talks" and one round of "meetings" with Premier Li Peng, his counterpart. He also met once with Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China [CPC], and once with Yang Shangkun, the president, respectively. Furthermore, on 27 November, he successfully concluded a treaty on economic assistance stipulating that China will extend economic assistance to North Korea. In the farewell talks following the conclusion of the treaty, he invited Li Peng to visit Pyongyang. To this invitation, Li Peng replied that "he will visit Korea at an appropriate time convenient to both nations." If Li Peng's North Korean visit is realized in the future, his visit will be the second one since March 1988.

The attitude of China's government-run Central Television [CCTV] reporting Premier Yon Hyong-muk's visit clearly reflects the Chinese side's attitude, which gave his visit significance in an "unusual" manner.

In the nationwide regular news cast at 1900 on 23 November, CCTV reported in detail on the ceremony in the eastern part of Tiananmen Square in the Great Hall of the People to welcome Premier Yon. In addition, CCTV devoted much coverage to his meeting with President Yang Shangkun on 24 November and his talks with General Secretary Jiang Zemin on 26 November. It reported on the farewell talks with Li Peng on 27 November and gave detailed background information on the conclusion of the treaty on economic assistance.

On no previous occasion in recent years were the activities of foreign leaders visiting China so intensively highlighted by CCTV as in the case of Premier Yon. CCTV reported on meetings and talks between the foreign leaders visiting China during the same period and on the highest-ranking Chinese leaders only after the news on Premier Yon's activities.

In the midst of such "warm hospitality" by China's government-run mass media, Premier Yon stressed with unprecedented emphasis that "the DPRK firmly believes that no matter what may happen in international society, DPRK-China relations will never change" during talks with Chinese leaders including Jiang Zemin, Yang Shangkun, and Li Peng. Thus, some people believe that he attempted to find "clear assurances for maintaining DPRK-China relations" from high-ranking Chinese leadership in connection with the agreement reached on 20 October between the ROK and China on establishing mutual trade missions and possibly establishing diplomatic relations. The remarks commonly used during talks between leaders of two countries in the past were, "Let us continue our traditional friendly relations from generation to generation."

At talks with Premier Yon on 23 November, Premier Li Peng from the Chinese side stressed that "the stabilized situation on the Korean peninsula is beneficial not only to North Korea's economic construction but also to China's economic construction." This also attracts people's attention.

Such remarks by Li Peng, together with General Secretary Jiang Zemin's remarks to Premier Yon on 26 November that "socialism can be advanced in parallel with reform and opening," strongly suggests what "the items in China's order to North Korea" are. Furthermore, Jiang Zemin's "order" to Premier Yon was conveyed at the Guest House in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in Guangdong Province in the southern part of China on the day of commemorating the 10th anniversary of establishing the special economic zone. Thus, the Chinese side clearly expressed its intent.

In addition, during his visit to China, Premier Yon stated that "although our economic construction faces some difficulties, it is generally in good condition." Thus, North Korea frankly admitted that it faces economic difficulties. This also attracts our attention.

The specific contents of the "agreement on economic assistance" signed by Kim Tal-hyon and Wu Xueqian, premiers of the two sides, on 27 November, have not been revealed. However, people observe that there were no noticeable differences in views between North Korea and China over the issues on improving North Korea's relations with Japan, on making progress in the North-South premiers talks, and on safeguarding socialism, which were discussed during Premier Yon Hyong-muk's visit to China.

Ministry Reports Trade Figures With North

SK2411113090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1116 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea traded 40,770,000 U.S. dollars worth of goods under 124 business deals for two years until the end of last month, according to a report filed by the Trade-Industry Ministry at the National Assembly Saturday.

The southern side bought 40,610,000 dollars worth of North Korean products in 121 deals while the Northbound delivery remained at 162,000 dollars under three deals, the report said. The Seoul government paved the way for inter-Korean trade by enacting guidelines for South-North trade in October 1988.

In the first year, the South Korean side introduced 1,030,000 dollars of North Korean products against no delivery of its goods to North Korea. The figures ran at 22.23 million dollars against 69,000 dollars in 1989 and then 17.34 million dollars against 93,000 dollars this year.

Major North Korean products bought by the South included such medium raw material for industrial use as steel and zinc and such primary commodities as raw materials of herb medicines, raw silk and fishery products. North Korea bought cigarette filters, jumpers and processed sugar. The bulk of the trade was mediated by trading agents based in Hong Kong and other neutral places, the report said.

Culture Minister Lifts Ban on North Films

SK2711032590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] The government will allow North Korean films to be played in the South on a gradual basis, it was reported yesterday.

Culture Minister Yi O-ryong revealed the plan in answering a call from assemblymen during the parliamentary inspection of the ministry.

In what he termed a three-step plan, Minister Yi said that, at first, North Korean films on treasures and cultural assets in the North will be allowed to be played in the South and then those depicting traditional folklore and culture which may contain some ideological elements.

In the final stage, South Koreans will be allowed access to genuinely artistic North Korean films free of political tint, said the professor-turned minister.

The government has banned all kinds of North Korean motion pictures from being played by theaters in the South thus far.

Army Medical Team To Be Sent to Saudi Arabia

SK2911052190 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 27 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 26 November that the government had decided to dispatch a 50-man military medical team to Saudi Arabia in connection with the Gulf situation and had begun a concrete consultation with Saudi Arabia through a diplomatic channel.

A government official said that through the United States, the government had recently discussed the dispatch of the medical team with the Saudi Arabian Government and added that "full-dress negotiations with the Saudi Arabian Government over the status of the medical team, its expenditure, and its location will begin soon."

He clarified that "the government takes the stand that since the medical team is composed of soldiers, an accord similar to the Status of Forces in Korea should be signed between the government and the Saudi Arabian Government before it is dispatched to Saudi Arabia. The accord shall stipulate the legal status, operations, and expenditure, and location of the medical team in Saudi Arabia."

He added that "the government adheres to the stand that even in the case the dispatch of the medical team is urgently needed as a result of a rapid change in the Gulf situation, at least the exchange of a memorandum between our government and the Saudi Arabian Government should precede the dispatch of the medical team."

In connection with the question concerning the object of medical treatment, he said that "this matter should be consulted with the United States and other nations which have joined multinational forces."

He also added that "after examining the legal problem with pertinent government organizations, the government had reached a conclusion that the dispatch of the medical team should be viewed as the dispatch of troops because the team would be sent abroad in uniform though it would be dispatched from a humanitarian standpoint. When the question of dispatching the medical team is settled, it will be sent abroad through the endorsement of the National Assembly."

With regard to the timing of the dispatch, he said that "because negotiations with the Saudi Arabian Government and the procedure of approval in the National Assembly are required, the medical team will be dispatched early next year at the earliest."

However, the government's decision to dispatch the military medical team to Saudi Arabia is likely to create a big controversy, because the full-dressed involvement of the Korean forces in the Vietnam war was initiated from the dispatch of the Pigeon Unit composed of medical personnel and engineers.

Seoul Declares Solidarity With Palestinians

SK3011071490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea praised the courageous and heroic efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve self-government in a message Thursday to mark "international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people."

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, in a message to the committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, called for peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue, which he said hinged on the Palestine question.

"The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state recognized by the relevant United Nations resolutions should be fully respected," he said.

Agency Plans Industrial Sites in PRC

SK2811035890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-chin, president of the Korea Land Development Corp. (KLDC), told a National Assembly panel Tuesday that his corporation has begun to study the possibility of building an industrial complex for South Korean businesses in China.

Kim said the land development project came onto the drawing board when the Chinese proposed that Korean businesses develop an industrial site for themselves as the sites already developed are expensive.

When the International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK) dispatched an economic delegation to China in November, some KLDC officials, including auditor O Il-nang, went along to make field investigations in five coastal areas in Tianjin and Shandong Province, he said.

The state-run corporation will lease land in China, landscape it and then rent it to Korean businesses. Each plot will be about 300,000 pyong (990,000 square meters) to meet the needs expressed by Korean firms, he said.

Kim said, however, the decision on whether the project will be carried through will be based on legal and diplomatic considerations as Seoul and Beijing have no diplomatic relations.

Seoul To Send Large Delegation to GATT Talks

SK2811101190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0809 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea is unlikely to get all 15 proposed agricultural items accepted as Non-Trade Concerns [NTCs] in the Uruguay Round trade talks next week, but will try for maximum time and exceptions in carrying out market liberalization, a top trade official said Wednesday.

Pak Pil-su, trade and industry minister, told reporters the United States was pressing Korea to submit an entirely new list of tariff reduction plans and was accusing Seoul of having no intention of complying with the principles of the Uruguay Round.

It may be virtually impossible to get full recognition of the 15 NTCs proposed by Seoul, which include rice, beef and poultry, and Korea may have to draw up an entirely new plan, Pak said.

Seoul is sending its largest delegation ever, of more than 100 people, to Brussels to participate in the five days of global trade negotiations on international trade guidelines.

In addition to Pak, the delegation will include Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Cho Kyong-sik and Korean Ambassador to Geneva Yi Sang-ok.

Wide differences between the European Community and the United States in the agricultural sector may prevent a consensus at the meeting, Pak said, but an agreement should be reached at the latest by February.

Pak's delegation will repeat Seoul's stance that the trade group must recognize the non-trade roles of the 15 farm products in balanced regional development and securing the national food supply and give Korea more time to liberalize its service market.

Raw Material Imports From Communist Sources Up

SK2811072490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0558 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (Yonhap)—Twenty-three percent of the raw materials imported by the South Korean Government so far this year came from communist countries, the office of supply said on Wednesday.

The government paid 48.3 billion won (68 million U.S. dollars) for 152,700 tons of raw materials in the first 10 months, of which 28,000 tons (11.2 billion won) came from three communist countries, the office said in a report submitted to the National Assembly.

The raw materials from the communist countries included 5,000 tons of aluminum and 6,000 tons of scrap iron from the Soviet Union, 2,000 tons of aluminum from China and 15,000 tons of scrap iron from Poland.

The figure for the 10-month period was 128.3 percent higher than the 12,265 tons imported in 1989 and the government plans to increase imports of high quality raw materials from communist countries, it said.

Revision of Military Development Program Planned

SK3011002190 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 26 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] It has been reported that the ROK Ministry of National Defense is extensively revising its plan to build up the Armed Forces, a plan through which the Armed Forces would achieve an independent capability to deter a war from the North.

The Ministry of National Defense is planning to task the new Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Ministry's Plans Management Office, and the National Defense Institute with this revision and to map out a general plan sometime during the first half of next year.

The revision will set goals for the ROK Armed Forces' military buildup in the nineties and the 2000's; reschedule when the Armed Forces will achieve the capability to deter a war from the North; extensively examine how and when the Armed Forces will purchase and deploy the next-generation of fighters, antisubmarine patrol planes, and other strategic weapons; formulate common weapons structures and operational concepts for all three branches of the Armed Forces; and will examine whether 650,000 is an appropriate number of troops, or whether it should be reduced. In the meantime, the Army, Navy, and Air Force so far have formulated their own weapons structures and operational concepts.

The military buildup plan covers the ROK Armed Forces's purchase and deployment of weapons and their use. Priorities in allocating the defense budget will greatly change, because if the current military buildup plan is revised, the current plan to purchase new weapons may be readjusted, new manufactures may be chosen, and on-going projects may be delayed.

An high-ranking official in the Ministry of National Defense said: "We have carried out the military buildup plan since the mid-seventies to assume a self-defense posture without curtailing or revising it. But drastic changes in the strategic environment in Northeast Asia and changes in ROK-U.S. military relations, which have played a part in maintaining security on the Korean peninsula, have made it necessary for us to be able to independently carry out operations and also have made it inevitable for us to revise our military buildup plan and operational concepts." He also said: "Because of a tendency toward a stringent defense budget, we cannot delay the revision of our military buildup plan any longer."

The official continued: "As for the ROK Armed Forces achieving the capability to deter a war from the North, we are likely to postpone the current target year of 1995 to the early 2000's. We are seriously considering further feasibility studies to delay large-scale weapons purchase plans, such as the next-generation fighter purchase program and the antisubmarine patrol plane purchase program, or to adjust the amount of equipment, depending upon our budget conditions."

It was reported that as for the biggest issue, the readjustment of troop strength, the Ministry of National Defense is likely to first examine whether the number of current standing forces (652,000) is appropriate and will readjust the number of draftees and low-level officers to be commissioned, instead of curtailing the troops in active duty, to ensure that the troops will be reduced as a matter of consequence. It also was learned that troop management also will undergo a natural change, and that the Ministry of National Defense is examining a plan to minimize standing forces, the main component of the ROK Armed Forces, and to mobilize reserve forces in an emergency.

Economic Institute Releases Prospective Report

SK2711042790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will have a trade deficit of 6.9 billion U.S. dollars on a customs clearance basis next year, with exports of 69.2 billion dollars and imports of 76.1 billion dollars, the Korea Institute for Economy and Technology (KIET) predicted Tuesday.

In spite of increased government spending, the economy will expand 7.1 percent because of slowdowns in fixed investment, pay hikes and overconsumption, and stable real estate and stock prices, the state-run institute said. The KIET report on economic prospects for 1991 said consumer prices will rise 9 percent or 10 percent due to the high growth rate of the total money supply this year, the higher cost of oil and increases in public service charges.

The cost of crude oil will drop to 20 dollars a barrel in the latter half of next year, returning to the level before the Gulf crisis, as oil producing countries pump more after the end of the Gulf standoff, in no matter what form, the report said.

In exports, textiles will grow 6.6 percent to 16.5 billion dollars, electrics and electronics 8 percent (18.8 billion dollars) and footwear 18.1 percent (5.01 billion dollars), but cars will be off 3.7 percent to 2.4 billion dollars, it said.

The import growth rate will be higher than this year's on the whole, and imports of textiles, footwear and machinery are expected to surge on a wave of import liberalization.

Exports to the United States, the European community and Canada will remain sluggish, but exports to Japan and to developing countries will grow at a relatively high rate. Exports to socialist nations will also mark high growth rates, though the total is not so big.

Bank Reports 3d Quarter Economic Growth

SK2811040390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0150 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 28 (YONHAP)—A construction boom and manufacturing recovery in South Korea boosted the economic growth rate to 9.6 percent in real terms for July-September, the Bank of Korea (BOK) reported Wednesday. The rate was 10.1 percent in the first quarter and 9.7 percent in the second quarter and the 12-month figure is set to surpass the projected 8.3-8.8 percent, the central bank said in a report on the aggregate domestic output in the third quarter.

Gross national product was valued at 32.8 trillion won (45.9 billion U.S. dollars) in the third quarter based on 1985 constant prices, up 9.6 percent from the same quarter last year.

Gross domestic product, GNP less the nation's net income from abroad, was 32.97 trillion won (46.11 billion dollars), also up 9.6 percent.

The central bank said growth quality was outstanding, because exports recovered while construction and domestic demand were not as excessive as in the previous quarters. Exports increased 10.3 percent, the highest since the economy began to decline during the fourth quarter of 1988, while imports rose 11.4 percent, led by an upsurge in demand for durable goods, the report said. Output in the manufacturing sector grew 9.3 percent, also the best performance since the fourth quarter of 1988.

Despite stronger restrictions and material shortages, construction sustained a growth rate of 22.3 percent after 30.8 percent growth in the first half of the year. The service industry expanded 9.8 percent, up from 8.9 percent in the first half, fueled by active wholesale, retail, finance, insurance and real estate businesses. The electricity, gas and water supply attained 15.9 percent growth.

Despite strong growth in the fisheries sector, overall output sagged 0.3 percent in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry because of fewer crops. The mining sector suffered a 11.2 percent setback.

Strong spending on durables led an increase in consumption in the private sector of 9.2 percent, down from 11.1 percent in the first quarter. Fixed investment rose 19.8 percent, led by strong investment in electricity, electronics and transportation equipment, the BOK report said.

Monthly on Political Fate of Two Kims

SK3011032290 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Nov 90 pp 129-139

[Article by Kim Won-ho, deputy director of the Political Bureau of YONHAP NEWS AGENCY, entitled "Political Fate of the Two Kims Linked to a Parliamentary Form of Government"]

[Text]**Parties Put Houses in Order for 1991's War of the Conventions**

After the ruling party unilaterally rushed a large number of bills through the assembly in only minutes last July, Korean politics approached the edge of the precipice amid intense confrontation between the ruling and opposition camps in a situation where parliamentary politics were paralyzed. After three months of this, the situation was scant inches from collapse by late October, and all parties groped for a solution to the crisis, but the structural confrontation built into the ruling and opposition camps caused the situation to remain explosive. Meanwhile, talk in the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] about taking up the cudgels in early 1991 to revise the Constitution for a parliamentary government signals another tumultuous period just ahead.

Korean politics has traditionally approached the edge of the precipice before coming up with a solution, in volatile Korean-style politics, but the outlook is that extremist methods like political fasting—which leave no avenues of retreat—should serve to inaugurate a dialogue, if barely. After the fasting ends we can expect the return of opposition deputies to the assembly, probably in early November, and a normalization of the operation of that august body. The renewal of dialogue between the ruling and opposition camps, however, will not suggest, as it has on other occasions, that the political situation is back to normal. The dialogue means that each camp is conducting adjustments and getting its own house in order in preparation for the respective party conventions in 1991.

This giant turn-about in the political situation affects not only the confrontation between the ruling and opposition camps but also impacts the huge DLP as well. Observers predict a sharp confrontation between the various factions of the DLP on the matter a constitutional revision to establish a parliamentary government. Observers expect this confrontation near the end of 1990 or early in 1991, and they expect that it will be bitter indeed.

What are the factors that keep Korean politics spinning on the edge of the precipice? They include the crude attempt at political reform that was the merger of the three parties, the incomplete extirpation of Fifth Republic vestiges, the two Kims' endless competition for the presidency, the perpetual antagonism and discord at the top ranks of the DLP, the unchanged dissident's means of struggle, and a simple lack of presidential ruling ability. Meanwhile, compromise is only barely alive on the two biggest issues of the times: implementation of local self-autonomy and amending the Constitution in favor of a parliamentary cabinet government.

The ruling party indulged in boundless self-admiration at the time the three parties merged. "An unprecedented, glorious, and most revolutionary decision in our constitutional history," they said. The merger drove the DLP to the brink of the abyss, and as soon as the DLP rammed numerous bills through the assembly in a matter of minutes in July, opposition deputies resigned and boycotted the assembly, freezing parliamentary activity and paralyzing politics. The situation worsened until finally lawmakers of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] resorted to sit-ins, and the PPD's Kim Tae-chung began a fast—actions appropriate to extremist forms of struggle. Today the fact is that we face extremely serious popular distrust of politics and a growing sense of crisis.

Thus, Korean politics are paralyzed, or "not at this address," as the popular term has it. We are drifting aimlessly, ratcheting the Korean people's distrust of politics upward to an extreme degree, amplifying it until the people see little to choose between the ruling and opposition camps, lumping them together and writing off the whole political world as unworthy of serious notice. The popular distrust is so great that it has pushed us even further toward the lip of the precipice, where we dare not even breathe for fear of falling. The situation can be laid partly at the feet of the two Kims, whose journey together along the path of coexistence bumped into unavoidable limitations set by the passage of time. Their abandonment of that path had helped inculcate a sense of national crisis.

The DLP conducts a monthly public opinion survey, and its most recent results made it very clear that the public has a general distrust of the political world. According to the poll, public support for the three existing political parties, the DLP, PPD, and Democratic Party [DP], was a mere 20 percent, while public support for the presidents and chairmen of the same three parties had reached rock bottom.

The extreme confrontation between the ruling and opposition camps which has paralyzed our politics and caused popular distrust of the political world—that is very difficult to reverse—originates, of course, in differences between the ruling and opposition camps views and perceptions of political issues. But I find the arguments persuasive of observers who say that the problem is less in their differences on political issues than in the two Kims' jockeying for position in the next presidential election, influencing blocs of partisan supporters as they deploy. In short, the root cause is a power struggle between the two Kims.

Public mistrust of government and politics is further eroded by acts which rob the Sixth Republic of its morality and its ability to rule, like group actions by government employees, the Defense Security Command [DSC] case, and widespread, violent crime.

Kim Tae-chung: His Political Life Is Linked to Local Autonomy

The reason the PPD advocates complete and early implementation of local autonomy, for example, is partly that it wants to maintain its ethical image as a group which has continuously and diligently pushed for democratization. But the PPD's interest in local autonomy is much more than ethical. The party intends to use local autonomy as a springboard for success in the upcoming general and presidential elections. Meanwhile, the DLP cannot even generate a clear-cut party policy on local autonomy, despite the fact that it was a signatory to an agreement by all four existing political parties in late 1989 on the matter. A conflict of interests has developed among the three DLP factions, the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP], on the matter, with each faction seeking to protect its own vested interests.

It is not hyperbolic to state that PPD President Kim Tae-chung has staked his entire political career on the issue of local autonomy.

Kim Tae-chung's position on local autonomy starts with the assumption that no matter how much the government and ruling party try to avoid implementing local autonomy that ultimately they will have no choice but do so, since it is stipulated in the Constitution and because they clearly enunciated their agreement to it in writing with him at the end of 1989. Kim realized that if local autonomy was to be established in any event, then he wanted a strategy in hand that would allow him to exploit local autonomy to help him achieve his own political objectives.

Sources say that Kim revealed the depth of his conviction on the issue on 8 October 1990 immediately before holding a news conference to announce his fast. Kim told one of his aides, "We'll use every means available to us to fight for the implementation of local autonomy. We absolutely must not fail." Kim's words suggest that he was speculating that the ruling camp would have to accept local autonomy sooner than expected, and that at least on that day before the news conference Kim apparently already believed that the ruling camp would approach him with a compromise package that included local autonomy.

Kim Tong-yong, then DLP floor leader and now first state minister of political affairs, visited Kim on the day before Kim was to begin his fast and outlined to Kim his own plan for implementing local autonomy. According to a rumor, Kim Tae-chung rejected this proposal on grounds that it did not represent a majority DLP position.

The PPD's demands in regard to local autonomy can be reduced to three: to hold elections for local assemblies by mid-1991 and be flexible on the timing of elections for mayors of special cities and provincial governors so long as such elections are concluded in any case before the general election, of course; to hold the elections on the basis of a system that allows political parties to nominate local autonomy candidates; and to allow national assemblymen to campaign without restrictions on behalf of local autonomy candidates.

Why then is Kim Tae-chung so persistent in the PPD's demands in regard to local autonomy? Has he calculated that holding the local autonomy elections will serve to benefit his own long-range political plans?

Firstly, the PPD calculates that holding local autonomy elections at an early date will expose the DLP to a popular judgment that will be so negative that the DLP will be overwhelmed. The PPD estimates that if local autonomy elections are held in the first half of 1991 that the DLP will suffer a stinging defeat because the DLP's popular support rate is worse now than at any time in the past and because the continuing lack of harmony in the DLP's leadership will prevent the party from pulling itself together to do political battle.

The PPD calculates that should it gain impressive victories in the local autonomy elections, these would serve to increase greatly the PPD's momentum going into the National Assembly election and the subsequent presidential election. The PPD feels especially optimistic about achieving overwhelming victories in local-autonomy elections in the Cholla provinces as well as winning the mayoral races in some large cities outside Cholla.

The Ruling and Opposition Camps' Local Autonomy Balance Sheet

Secondly, Kim Tae-chung's strategy is to clear the way for him to go legally and directly before the Korean people and trust to his considerable powers of public persuasion to lay out his concept of the political situation and his political views. If the PPD has its way, political parties will be allowed to recommend candidates for local autonomy elections and national assemblymen will be allowed to actively support candidates. Under these ground rules, Kim Tae- chung will conduct a grand campaign tour of the entire nation campaigning for one and another local-autonomy candidate but essentially conducting a speaking-tour on behalf of his own presidential aspirations. This will result in putting Kim Yong-sam on the defensive and allow Kim Tae-chung to overwhelm him with confidence.

Thirdly, the PPD calculates that holding local council elections and elections for mayors and provincial governors will bring sufficient political funds into their coffers to see them through the coming National Assembly and presidential elections. The PPD understands that in any election in Korea the rule is that funds flow in as the pieces are arranged on the election checker board. The funds come not only to nominees but to the central party as well.

The ruling party and the government, however, cannot be ignorant of the details of the PPD's plans for local-autonomy, and as a result they have adopted a negative attitude toward the implementation of local autonomy for many months past.

First, the ruling camp calculates that it must block expansion of the opposition's strength by refusing to accede to permitting political parties to recommend candidates for local-autonomy elections. The ruling camp is afraid that participation by political parties in the local-autonomy elections would cause an upsurge of public awareness and participation in politics which would lead to a terrible political offensive from the opposition camp, one calculated to generate an "opposition wind" that would sweep the ruling camp from power not only in the local-autonomy elections but in both the subsequent parliamentary and presidential elections as well.

Secondly, the ruling camp calculates that a high degree of prudence is necessary in regard to local autonomy elections, advancing their own proposals based on the conviction that too many elections can ruin the country. They argue that if local autonomy elections are held in the first half of 1991, to be followed by National Assembly elections, to be followed by the presidential election, then this parade of crucial elections will ruin the country.

Kim Tae-chung, meanwhile, clearly has no intention either of yielding on his style of local autonomy or surrendering to the ruling camp's demand for a constitutional change in favor of parliamentary government. In the course of negotiations to convince Kim to return to the assembly, however, Kim has clearly shown that he has no intention of demanding clearly that the ruling camp must abandon completely its intention to pursue a constitutional amendment.

Kim has no absolute need to come out fighting against the amendment notion at the present moment because he knows that such an amendment is impossible so long as the opposition continues to oppose it. Moreover, he knows that he can set the issue aside and save it until next year before using it to attack the ruling camp. To the extent that the DLP has come out and publicly stated that it will not pursue the issue so long as the people and the opposition oppose it, the PPD has no current need to address the issue.

The problem of revising the Constitution to establish a parliamentary form of government, moreover, is seen as less an issue between the ruling and opposition camps than it is a thorny problem internally in the ruling camp. Indeed, it is a time bomb which could explode at any moment with megaton-class power and shake the very foundations of the DLP's rule.

A key figure in the ruling camp who very recently met President No Tae-u alone said that President No still strongly supports a parliamentary governmental system and that President No expects and believes that the PPD will switch toward a parliamentary system next year. The heavy weights of the DLP's DJP Faction centered on Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan and the NDRP faction with DLP Cochairman Kim Chong-pil as its peak regard the parliamentary system of government as the de facto basis on which the merger of the three parties was struck. They absolutely and irrevocably advocate parliamentary government as the path to national stability. As we all know, they are opposed on this issue within the DLP by the RDP Faction led by Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam.

Creation of an Anti-Kim Yong-sam United Front Highly Possible

Although DJP Faction members like President No, Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, and Floor Leader Kim presently appear to believe the realization of parliamentary government to be impossible, they also believe that the situation will change in 1991 and that even the PPD may drop its opposition to a parliamentary cabinet government.

It is difficult to determine whether this optimistic outlook by key DJP faction figures derives merely from a pool of confidence or whether it originates from a plan which will lay the foundation for achieving parliamentary government. What can be said with certainty is that the DJP faction regards the parliamentary form of government almost as a savior; they will neither abandon the idea easily nor compromise on it. In this regard, Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan, who was given responsibility for maintaining liaison contacts with the opposition in the DLP's most recent round of leadership shifts, is a devotee of parliamentary government and can be expected to push for that outcome at any cost. Kim can be expected to work to reverse the views of those who continue to oppose parliamentary government.

In contrast, former First State Minister of Political Affairs Pak Chol-on, who advocated parliamentary government from the outset, lately has shown significant flexibility: "I don't believe that a parliamentary cabinet system is absolutely essential or we can't press onward. Although it would be contrary to my expectations, if the presidential-centered government system remains in place, then we must shore it up by adding a vice presidency to it."

Cochairman Kim Chong-pil and others of the NDRP faction will not sit still for this approach, however, saying that the presidential government system must absolutely be changed to a parliamentary system: "Consider what will happen when South Kyongsang Province's Kim Yong-sam and Cholla Province's Kim Tae-chung clash again for the presidency under the presidential system. A fight as severe as a quasi-rebellion will erupt, and it will be so sanguinary as to eclipse totally the presidential campaign of late 1987, and in the end this nation will be utterly destroyed."

In a situation like this where the viewpoints between the various DLP factions differ so markedly, as President No stated at the beginning, there will be no public discussion about amending the Constitution in favor of a parliamentary form of government until January 1991. If public discussion of the subject does start then, indications are that the first step will be to forge an agreed party policy within the DLP.

In that case, the friction and discord between the NDRP and DJP factions which advocate a parliamentary system and the RDP faction which opposes it will of course be exposed. If the RDP faction carries the day, the outlook dims for constitutional revision in favor of parliamentary government, and confusion and tumult continue, then the prospect is that the DJP faction will place responsibility on Kim Yong-sam and form an "anti-Kim Yong-sam line."

Former Secretary General Yi Chong-chan of the DJP faction noted that, "If a healthy amendment to the Constitution can be realized, then Chairman Kim's position will be strengthened immensely, but if the amendment does not go through, ultimately Chairman Kim will have to take political responsibility therefore."

The creation of an anti-Kim Yong-sam line or a movement to eliminate Kim are not outcomes that will occur simply during the process of promoting a constitutional amendment for parliamentary government. If the DLP continues to be riven by internal disputes, as it is now, then the party will continue to drift aimlessly and will not be able to assume its proper leadership role in political affairs. If this proves to be case, then political responsibility for this too will be laid at Kim Yong-sam's feet, whether or not Kim is in fact at fault.

Chairman Kim Yong-sam's side is already well aware of movements of this kind afoot in the DJP and NDRP factions. That was the reason the RDP faction worked so hard during the reshuffle of party leadership positions on 12 October 1990 to ensure that both the secretary general and floor leader positions went to DJP faction figures. The RDP faction wanted any impending political responsibility to be spread around as widely as possible.

"Generational Change" Meshes with Constitutional Revision for Parliamentary Government

Current moves to form an anti-Kim Yong-sam line in the DJP faction mesh with the recent forces surging from both the opposition and ruling camps demanding generational change, demands the regime can hardly afford to ignore. Should the regime fail to defuse the building situation and restore order, the winds of change within the DLP could grow into a cyclone of demand for generational change.

Why is steam building behind demands for generational change? Setting aside the past accomplishments and failures of forces led by the three Kims, the present rise in popular criticism of the three was triggered partly because they are struggling yet again for the presidency, although below the surface. Other reasons include the fact that opportunities for democratization were lost on two past occasions because of the greed the Kims share for the presidency; the fact that the Kims are responsible for heightened regional discord; the fact that they persist in attempting to settle old personal scores; and the fact that they have turned Korean politics into a factionalist joke.

No clearly-defined groups demanding generational change have yet emerged, and a generational change will not appear by tomorrow morning because the old generation holds power in the parties and practical political power as well. Prospects are, however, that over the next two or three years we will witness the emergence of a three or four step process of challenge to the Kims' generation that they will find impossible to ignore.

The first phase of this process will be the monstrous wind likely to build up in early 1991 in regard to constitution revision, as I discussed earlier. Assembly deputy Yi Chong-chan observed that, "The DLP will be obliged to adopt a clear-cut stance on the matter of constitutional revision early in 1991, even as it approaches the first anniversary of the merging of its three constituent parties. ... A time will come in early 1991 when a mighty judgment will be rendered on the actual performance of the DLP's leadership at managing the political situation over time. Kim Yong-sam is a central figure in that leadership."

Assembly deputy Pak Chol-on clashed with Chairman Kim on two past occasions only to find himself pushed out of the mainstream of party politics and away from the center of power. Pak observed recently that, "I intend to remain quiet until early in 1991, but as time passes our team will get its house in order and make a move." Cochairman Kim Chong-pil and his NDRP Faction are especially vociferous. Should the constitutional question go against their wishes, the NDRP factions claims that it will not hesitate to employ heroic means to push for revision. Faction members claim that if there is to be no constitutional revision that they will refuse to share a roof with the RDP faction no matter how the structure beneath the roof is shaped.

The anticipated "housecleaning" at the DLP could occur as a natural result of the logical extension of statements like those immediately above. Along with the NDRP's intransigence, the DJP faction's obstinate, militant assertiveness on the issue may yet cause the DLP to adopt the parliamentary system as policy. In the subsequent jockeying to arrange a revision of the Constitution, the PPD could make a 180-degree turn and support the revision, or a grand political coalition of parts of the DLP and PPD could occur. This would trigger sanguinary battles within the DLP that would lead to some politicians being listed as killed in action, while other politicians would carry the day and be listed as heroes.

Certain DJP faction adherents believe that the appropriate path is not an all-or-nothing attempt to change the Constitution, engaging the PPD in headlong battle. They believe it possible to choose a more attractive path in which the DJP faction undertakes negotiations with the PPD aimed at revising the Constitution. These DJP faction elements believe that nothing should be ruled out if it will facilitate these negotiations. Many people believe, however, that PPD President Kim Tae-chung has spent too many months publicly demanding the abandonment of the notion of parliamentary government and would thus find it extremely difficult to reverse himself at this point. Indeed, these observers believe that a reversal on the issue would be tantamount to immediate political suicide for Kim. No position is immutable in politics, however, so the possibility of Kim changing his mind on this issue cannot be ruled out.

Neither President No, Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, nor DLP Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan has abandoned his lingering attachment for a constitutional revision to establish a parliamentary government, and this is precisely the reason the DLP itself has not. Senior DLP executives from the DJP faction cannot say on the one hand that they sincerely wish to ameliorate the sense of political alienation rampant in the Cholla Provinces and that for this purpose a parliamentary system would be more helpful than the existing presidential system and say on the other hand that they completely rule out a dramatic compromise between the DJP faction and the PPD.

The DJP faction calculates that Kim Tae-chung will not persist in running for president if he recognizes even so much as 30 percent of his limitations, perceives the practical fact that he simply cannot be elected president. Unfortunately, this DJP faction logic is tattered in one major aspect: Kim Tae-chung will never abandon his run for the presidency so long as the DJP faction is not in a position to field a strong candidate of its own. So long as Kim Tae-chung believes that the DLP really intends to nominate Kim Yong-sam as its candidate, Kim will persist to the bitter end.

The power alignments within the parties will begin to change significantly in early 1991, but the second stage of the generational change will not start until November 1991, the first month in which the 14th general elections can be held. The second stage outcome will turn on how and to whom partisan nominations are made and, of course, the election results themselves.

DJP Faction Operations To Wound Kim Yong-sam

Sitting national president and DLP President No Tae-u holds the overwhelming right to nominate DLP assembly candidates in the 14th general elections, but the actual power of the three cochairmen of the party, Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and Cochairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, turns on how many DLP nominations each will be allowed to decide. The nomination process, then, could develop in ways that alter existing power alignments within the DLP and result in unanticipated power adjustments.

The election results could do the same. For example, if the general election is held comparatively early, in late 1991, and the DLP or one of its political factions suffers a crushing defeat, then as Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam will inevitably be held responsible. Kim and his RDP faction would collapse, and a change in party leadership would occur.

Thirdly, we can hypothesize that a generational change may occur as the presidential election draws nearer during the process of selecting the DLP presidential nominee, in the event that a constitutional revision for parliamentary government does not occur.

Secretary General Pak Chun-pyong and assembly deputies Yi Chong- chan, Kim Yun-hwan, and Yi Han-tong, virtually all of the leaders of the DJP faction, are of a single voice in insisting that the DLP's next presidential candidate absolutely must be nominated via democratic means.

These DJP leaders emphasize the unavoidability of nomination by ballot: "In the past we endured 'gymnasium elections.' [a term referring to controlled elections of party presidents that occurred from 1972 to 1981 at sports centers, such as the Changchung Gymnasium—an appointment of the chief executive] Our presidential candidate this time must not be elected by a simple round of applause. The Korean people won't tolerated it, and we in the party itself will not tolerate it. ... If Chairman Kim Yong-sam stands for the nomination, it is in his own best interests that he win the nomination in absolutely no other way than by an electoral process. If our candidate is to prevail against the candidate fielded by the opposition, we must select our candidate via the ballot box."

This uncompromising demand on the part of the DJP faction to select the DLP's presidential nominee by ballot contains an admirable ethical element, an ethical approach all the more necessary in a period of democratization to satisfy those in and out the DLP who believe that democratic procedures must not be abridged. However, the DJP faction's vociferous demand for nomination by ballot is based on the assumption that should the situation develop favorably for them, they will withhold votes from Kim Yong-sam and swing them behind a candidate they view as more sympathetic.

Actually some of the DJP faction's key figures have already begun making preliminary arrangements for the nomination balloting. There is no guarantee these men will remain unequivocally wedded to Kim Yong-sam until the third phase of the process of generational shift, that is, until the process of nomination nears. Should Kim Yong-sam eventually emerge as the DLP's presidential candidate, however, some DJP faction leaders calculate that they can negotiate a power-sharing arrangement with Kim under which he carries the party's standard in the presidential campaign, while the person who ends up second in the nomination balloting can assume control of the DLP itself.

The gentlemen entitled to cast their votes in the nominating assembly are sitting assembly deputies and chairmen of local party chapters. As the largest body in the DLP, the DJP faction controls more deputies and chapter chairmen than any group. Thus, many DJP faction figures simply cannot bring themselves to consider use this king-making power to hand the nomination on a platter to the likes of Kim Yong-sam.

Of course, the power in the DLP may shift as a result of the outcome of the 14th general elections, both in nominating and electing figures of one faction or another to the National Assembly. Until that time, however, the reality is that the DJP faction will remain the most powerful political group in or out of the DLP, with one of its members serving both as party president and president of the nation, virtually guaranteeing significant advantages in accumulating political funds, information distribution, and organizational efforts. The DJP faction enjoys an advantageous position, but the general election could reverse their fortunes.

Kim Yong-sam's Secret Scenarios

The DJP faction has Kim Yong-sam in its sights. Kim's quarter-century of experience with the opposition not only provides him with popular and impeccable democratic credentials, it has made him a fighter, and Kim does not flinch from the field of political battle. Kim emerged the victor after being the target of two direct attacks by Deputy Pak Chol-on, but Pak was successful in inflicting political wounds on Kim. Recently, even Cochairman Pak Tae-chun mounted a disagreeable challenge against Kim. The DJP faction will almost certainly conduct similar attacks against Kim once or twice more. Their strategy is to mount a series of strong attacks on Kim, so that as the time for selecting a DLP presidential candidate approaches, Kim will be worn down and suffering from any number of serious political wounds. The DJP faction believes this will also reduce Kim's luster as a long-time champion of democracy. The DJP faction also believes that even in the event that the DLP remains fairly quiet and intact, that they are in an ideal position to play both sides against the middle by standing back while Kim Tae-chung lambastes every word and action taken by Kim Yong-sam and undertakes political maneuvers to undercut Kim's political prestige and honor.

A key DJP faction leader was blunt: "If you're popular going into an election, whether large or small, then the media throws its limelight all over you, and you can win. But politics under Kim Yong-sam is moribund now, and under his leadership the situation in the party is divisive. What will things be like under more months of his leadership, the months leading up to the presidential election in late 1992? How popular will Kim be by then?" The DJP faction leader went so far as to add that, "It is self-evident that DJP faction leaders and others who hold real power in the ruling camp will shift their interest and expectations to another power who emerges like a comet and grabs the attention of the media and the people."

The chances are, however, that if Kim Yong-sam remains on the defensive that at some point he will himself adopt an explosive policy of survival. A source says that Kim Yong-sam made this clear at an April 1990 meeting at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Korea attended by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, Ambassador Gregg, the vice president of FORBES Magazine, and others. Kim said that in the event that his political position or situation was badly eroded that it was possible that he would mount a political attack on the DLP of such a magnitude that the party would be rendered powerless. Close aides to Kim in the RDP faction say, in fact, that a secret scenario has been prepared for use in just such a contingency.

We have now reviewed the three phases likely to be involved in a change in the DLP's checkerboard of power and also in generational change. We will now review DLP assembly deputies who are marching confidently toward a post-No era: Pak Tae-chun, Yi Chong-chan, Kim Yun-hwan, Yi Han-tong, and Pak Chol-on. Any of a large number of figures who are not party members, government officials or other prominent ruling-camp luminaries, can vault into these ranks at any time, of course.

Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan: Helps Kim Yong-sam Consolidate Power

DLP Cochairman Pak Tae-chun was tentative and seemed somewhat lost in the early days after the triparty merger, missing opportunities to influence selections for party leadership positions. But Pak speaks out boldly today and is lengthening his political stride. Pak now exercises unhesitating leadership in supervising the DJP faction's assembly deputies.

Some ask a number of cogent questions about Cochairman Pak: Where is his political base within the DLP? Does he have political aspirations? Vision? In today's situation where a clear-cut leader of the DJP faction has not emerged, however, Cochairman Pak must stand at the forefront of the faction by default, at least for the time being, and irrespective of whether given individuals like it or not.

Assembly deputy Yi Chong-chan seems to be making cautious political calculations on the basis of his very broad, mass popularity, a popularity unmatched by any other figure in the DJP faction. During the Fifth Republic Yi held important DJP posts, such as floor leader, and suffered discrimination from the hands of then President Chon Tu-hwan. Yi does not enjoy the support of many members of the assembly, however. But if a strong wind of popular support were to blow in his direction, Yi could probably win enough votes to become the DLP presidential nominee. Yi, of course, anticipates that this will in fact prove to be the case.

In a recent Gallup poll the results of which were not made public, Yi Chong-chan's popularity proved to be higher than that of any other figure in the ruling camp. In the present reality of fierce regional confrontation, Yi is especially attractive because he hails from Seoul rather than from either the feuding Kyongsang or Cholla regions. Yi believes he can get a lot of mileage from this single fact alone.

During the last reshuffle of DLP leadership positions, former floor leader Kim Yun-hwan was again appointed to that post. Kim believes that now is not the time to speak of a change in generations. He thinks that the way to bring down the curtain on the ills of the era of the three Kims is to give one of them the opportunity to serve as chief executive. Kim provides unstinting support to Kim Yong-sam because of his convictions, certainly outdistancing any other DJP faction figure in aiding Kim.

Kim Yun-hwan's logic has caused him to be a strong supporter of a future political scenario in which Kim Yong-sam drops his opposition to a parliamentary form of government in exchange for serving as the strong-man first prime minister under the new governmental system. Kim Yun-hwan therefore works diligently to support Kim Yong-sam in his duties as the second figure in the DLP, while at the same time Kim pressures Kim Yong-sam to support a parliamentary form of government.

Although Kim Yun-hwan says that he has never entertained designs on power, Kim is in fact a central figure of the so-called TK [Taegu-Kyongsang Province] powers, and is especially highly regarded by the PPD and elsewhere in the opposition camp. He is a virtual shoo-in to be the next secretary general of the DLP, and therefore must be numbered among the next generation of political leaders.

Pak Chol-on, of course, is another TK figure who worked as a close aide to President No for some time and was in charge of virtually all Chongwadae's analysis, planning, and organization activities. Pak remains an object of intense political and media interest and continues to expand his radius of operations through his own private organization, the Laurel Tree Society.

In April 1990, Pak mounted an attack on Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam which Pak lost. Pak was obliged to surrender his portfolio as first state minister of political affairs, but the Laurel Tree Society and Pak's control thereof emerged unscathed. The primary objective of the Laurel Tree Society is to crush Kim Yong-sam. Pak has recently made the Laurel Tree Society into the foundation for an aggressive attempt to broaden his image and emerge as a politician with mass appeal. Pak faces a number of delimiting factors on his ambitions, however, not the least of which was his making Kim Yong-sam into an inveterate enemy. Pak has made many enemies even within the DJP faction because his past style has been to welcome some people warmly, as friends, while treating others coldly, as enemies.

Currently a mid-level DJP faction boss, Yi Han-tong held key positions in the old DJP and turned in sterling executive performances to match his exceptional powers of judgment. Moreover, Yi also is blessed with that rare quality of being able to get things done. Yi remains relatively quiet within the DLP, but observers believe that he can put together a power base in the Inchon and Kyonggi Province areas anytime he decides to do so. Those close to Yi Han-tong point out that the number of assembly deputies representing the Inchon-Kyonggi area is almost as great as the number from the TK area. These sources note that while any number of TK bigwigs compete for the support of the TK deputies, Yi is virtually unchallenged in his region, enabling him to consolidate and make a move almost at will.

Although informed observers believe that these DJP faction leaders are not now in a position to challenge or compete with Kim Yong-sam or another of the senior statesmen of Korean politics in view of the existing internal atmosphere in the DLP, these observers point to the turning point likely to occur in the spring of 1991 as providing room for political maneuver to one or more of these figures.

A Generational Change at the PPD Also

Within a year or two, meanwhile, observers believe that these mid-level bosses, who have served as secretary general or floor leader of the party or as first state minister of political affairs in the government, will mount a considerable challenge for top leadership. They are aware that their power is expanding and are taking pains to position themselves advantageously.

The following is a list of four DLP assembly deputies who may be characterized as emerging political powers, figures who are already at the center of pools of gradually expanding power: Kim Chung- kwon, Yi Tae-sop, Hwang Pyong-tae, and Kim Tok-yong. As key future DLP figures, these men share a fresh consciousness and attitude, and they demand new approaches to persistent political problems.

A dark-horse TK power, Assemblyman Kim Chung-kwon was appointed to a position as weighty as that of party secretary general in the DJP executive reshuffle in the summer of 1989. President No holds Kim's ability in high regard, understandably since Kim is a six-time assembly deputy. The number of first- and second-term deputies in the assembly who are turning to Kim for leadership is gradually increasing. During the lengthy holiday period in early October 1990, for instance, Kim met in Pohang and Kyongju with about 15 young assembly deputies to build unity and amity away from Seoul's limelight.

Yi Tae-sop is a third-term deputy who used a stint as minister of political affairs to build a very extensive support base in both the ruling and opposition camps. Yi is working hard to consolidate his power as a mid-level boss and use his support foundation as a springboard to rise even higher.

Kim Tok-yong is only a first-term assemblyman, but he is second only to Kim Yong-sam in his impeccable credentials as one who has struggled for democracy. He has used his popular credentials to champion fresh reform and is consolidating his support. RDP faction deputy Hwang Pyong-tae is a most resourceful politician; one of very few in his faction, and benefits from his fresh political image.

Moves for a generational change are not limited to the DLP. Similar moves are underway in the PPD, although they are less visible there. PPD President Kim Tae-chung exercises absolute power within the PPD, so moves to unseat him remain beneath the surface, but at that moment when the pillars of the three Kims' era begin to crumble, a great wave of demand for generational change will sweep through the PPD, reforming its structure.

On the subject of the demand for generational change, Kim Tae-chung claims that he is already grooming a few potential successors, but so long as Kim Tae-chung remains on stage, his presence will make it all but impossible for a new real power to emerge. The two men mentioned most often, however, as possible replacements for Kim in a generational change are Policy Committee Chairman Cho Se-hyong and former floor leader, Kim Won-ki.

The Korean people cast eyes of suspicion on all three Kims today, perhaps as part of a general mistrust of politics itself. Still, two of the three already have joined the ruling party. No one can deny that Kim Tae-chung is alone on the field as the sole opposition power leader, or that he has suffered all manner of persecution over the course of his political career, or that he has clung to his own political principles, or that he helped open the road to democratization.

Nonetheless, numbers of the Korean people and a very large number of politicians in both the opposition and ruling camps do not believe that a reorganization of the partisan political scene based on simple mathematical realignment among parties can purge basic public mistrust either of political power or about political stagnation. The merger of the three parties in 1990 laid to rest any hopes anyone had in this regard. Observers believe that a real housecleaning of the political world, therefore, must include Kim Tae-chung if real reform is to be realized.

Kim Tae-chung's recent fast and the other frenzied measures he has adopted to deal with the political situation reveal clearly that Kim is moving not only against his political rivals in the ruling camp, but that he is also moving to head off subsurface moves for generational change within his own party and not incidentally dampen internal PPD strife related to the issue of unification of the opposition camp.

Kim Tae-chung Likely To Continue Frenzied Attacks on the Ruling Camp

Kim Tae-chung suffers from a number of disadvantages. The outlook is that he will not be able to dodge these outrageous arrows with sufficient frequency to hold back forever the twin forces that confront him: the gale that blows in his face from outside the party and the moves within the PPD for generational changes. His disadvantages include the limits to his political base imposed by regionalism; his undemocratic management of the PPD, often called his personal party; his persistent hard-line struggle methods, which originate from his unquenchable ambition to be president; and his active pursuit of an endless test of strength with Kim Yong-sam, a rivalry that visited the disaster of public mistrust on Korean politics.

Kim used the end of his recent fast to switch from confrontation to dialogue with the ruling camp. But observers believe that Kim will very quickly return to his ill-considered attacks on the ruling camp once the assembly has completed budget deliberations late in the year. Before 1991 is very old, he will be mounting frenzied attacks on the ruling camp once again. Kim's strategy is extreme. He hopes to exploit the local autonomy issue and the constitutional revision issues to the maximum. His objective will be not only to remove both Kim Yong-sam and President No from their political positions, but to maintain a steady, multipronged attack on the DLP designed to provide the PPD with any and every attainable advantage.

Specifically, Kim intends to mount frenzied attacks on the ruling camp to divert public attention away from No's achievements in foreign affairs even as No himself enters his vulnerable, lame-duck period in office. No's achievements are substantial: normalization of relations with the Soviet Union, progress in North-South relations, the possibility of North-South normalization talks, and hints of normalization of relations with China.

Kim also seems to judge that he can fish in troubled waters on the issue of revising the Constitution for parliamentary government, perhaps deliberately promoting the issue as a way to amplify DLP internal strife. In the process, Kim will focus more on dealing body blows to Kim Yong-sam's political position than on anything else.

A foreign scholar addressed the confrontation and endless competition between these two old-line powers with these words: "The more they change, the more they remain the same." Paraphrasing a French aphorism, he said that the sun itself would change before they did. In a word, 1991 will be another noisy, confused political year.

* Pak Chol-on Expands Support Bases

912C0013 Seoul IRYO SINMUN in Korean 23 Sep 90 p 7

[Article by reporter Kim Si-kwan]

[Text] The super dreadnought "Wolgyesuhoe" is busy getting ready to set sail for a new destination. Wolgyesuhoe is waging a secret drive, with the chairmen and advisors of its local chapters in the van, to execute its plan to expand the network of its organization by completing the selection of heads of its local sub-chapters at the base administrative level (the county level) by the end of December, while consolidating its regional chapters. To implement this plan, the leaders and assemblymen's groups in Wolgyesuhoe reportedly have swung into action after mapping out a specific strategy, which calls for consolidating the organization by subdividing it into political, business, academic, youth, and other groups. Reports on this alleged move sound all the more convincing because they are in consonance with former State Minister Pak Chol-on's recent statement that "with the incongruity of its members exposed, Wolgyesuhoe needs reorganization," and the remarks made by his close aides that "this is the time for Wolgyesuhoe to have a shot in the arm in order to get ready for an impending emergency."

Reportedly, the goal of the reorganization plan which is being pushed at the central headquarters of Wolgyesuhoe (housed in Building 63) is to give it a shot in the arm by enlisting people in their twenties and thirties, the age group which accounts for more than 60 percent of the population.

This report is substantiated by the rapid expansion of the "Korean National Federation of Democratic Youths" [Hanminnyon], which recently made its debut.

Youths, Target of Hanminnyon

Hanminnyon, centering on Taegu and North Kyongsang Province made its debut in early August when it held a large mass rally at Hwajin Beach in Pohang.

The rally was attended by over 500 members, mostly college students who sympathize with former State Minister Pak Chol-on's political philosophy. Hanminnyon plans to expand its organization throughout the country by the end of December, and a plan is said to have been worked out to make Hanminnyon emerge as the backbone of Wolgyesuhoe. This plan is interpreted as a strategy to breathe life into Wolgyesuhoe through organizational expansion.

According to rumors, Hanminnyon is currently endeavoring to "enlist prominent figures" mainly in Seoul and Pusan in order to expand its organization.

Image making for former State Minister Pak Chol-on is Hanminnyon's main function, but it will also play a vanguard role for Wolgyesuhoe if need be.

Reportedly, Hanminnyon is redefining its relationship with the "Federation for Studies of Future National Problems" [Miminnyon], an organization known as an affiliate of Wolgyesuhoe, as part of its expansion program.

Miminnyon, led by Chong Song-uk, President No's second cousin on his mother's side, was organized in June 1986 and merged into Wolgyesuhoe shortly before the presidential election.

Subsequently, Chong Song-uk relinquished his post as chairman of Ilchihoe, a Wolgyesuhoe affiliate, in March 1989, declaring his own independent line. His awkward relationship with Wolgyesuhoe was straightened out recently as he reestablished his relationship with Wolgyesuhoe through Miminnyon and other channels.

Concerning Wolgyesuhoe's move for organizational consolidation, one interested source said that they have something to do with the "political situation centering on the constitutional amendment issue." According to him, Wolgyesuhoe leaders were agreed that a revision of the constitution is a certainty either for the cabinet system or for the president/vice president system, and it is necessary to place the loosely knitted organization in a "battle array" to get ready for that contingency.

Organization Consolidated With Each Hot Issue

As a matter of fact, each time a hot issue cropped up, Wolgyesuhoe moved to consolidate its organization. For instance, it readjusted and consolidated its organization during the last presidential election and the 26 April general election, and at the time when a mid-term appraisal of President No's performance became an issue. In anticipation of a reorganization of the political structure, it has held more than 100 unity rallies at the base level since last November.

Observers say that in the final analysis, these moves on the part of Wolgyesuhoe were aimed at getting prepared in anticipation of a revision of the constitution. There is another view that these moves stem from both a long-range as well as a short-range strategy in preparation for the forthcoming 14th general election and the presidential election.

For Minister Pak Chol-on, who basks in President No's halo, his calculation is based on the assumption that unless President No employs some arbitrary measures to extend his term, the umbrella provided by President No is bound to disappear. For this reason, analysts say, Pak Chol-on must have found it necessary to consolidate his support organizations while the protective shield provided by the president still exists.

In other words, analysts point out that Pak Chol-on has double objectives, namely, the short-term objective of coping with any contingency in the event intraparty confusion should intensify in the vortex of the political unrest over the constitutional revision issue, and the mid- and long-term objective of having as many of his supporters as possible elected in the 14th general election.

In addition, according to analysts, the fact that Pak Chol-on is not one of those who have naturally emerged as politicians from among the masses may have been factored into the current Wolgyesuhoe drive to consolidate its organization.

One of Pak Chol-on's close aides pointed out that the Pak Chol-on group always keeps in mind that "forces gathering around a power center are by nature opportunists." In other words, the Pak Chol-on group is worried about the human nature that when one holds power, many gather around him to form a big organization, but when his power becomes shaky, his organization quickly tumbles.

It seems to be Pak Chol-on's judgment that as President No approaches the second half of his term in office, the phenomenon of a lame duck president will accelerate, and in that event, the possibility cannot be ruled out that Pak Chol-on himself and Wolgyesuhoe he leads will be thrown into utter confusion.

Over 100,000 Directly or Indirectly Involved

It is speculated that on the basis of this judgment Pak Chol-on is hastening to breathe ideals into his support organizations and systematize them while President No's power base remains solid.

The drive to expand Pak Chol-on's Wolgyesuhoe which is currently under way for the objectives described above is visible throughout all the affiliated organizations.

Currently, Wolgyesuhoe has 40 regional chapters in which more than 500 persons are at work. It has over 50,000 core members, and in addition, more than 100,000 persons are directly or indirectly involved in Wolgyesuhoe.

The current expansion drive is under way with these people at the center, and practical work relating to the expansion drive is being conducted under the direction of the regional chapters.

In Seoul, the Fellowship for Justice [chongui tongjihoe], the 1 February Society [iil tongjihoe], the Society for the Study of Western Culture [Somunnyon], Palgonghoe, Simjihoe, Kyongsinhoe, Kumjinhoe, and other affiliate organizations are leading the drive.

Of these affiliates, Somunnyon is reportedly led and given financial support by Cho Chong-min, chairman of Life Housing Corporation.

In Pusan, the Regional Affairs Research Institute led by Kang Chang-su (a businessman), and the Juvenile Problems Research Institute (headed by Chairman Choe Sin-kil) are active in the campaign to enlist youths and women as members.

In Taegu, Pak Chol-on's hometown, Taejihoe (headed by Chairman Pak Yong-hae) and Kumhohoe are in the van of Wolgyesuhoe's membership drive. Reportedly, support from Kyongbuk High School graduates is of great help.

In other areas, Tamrahoe (Cheju), Chunguhoe (North Chungchong Province), Nohyonhoe (North Cholla Province), Taebaekhoe (Kangwon Province), Chongminhoe (South Chungchong Province), Chongnimhoe (Taejon), Mudunghoe (Kwangju), and Chonnamhoe (South Cholla Province) are said stepping up their under-the-surface activities as Wolgyesuhoe's affiliates.

In addition, the Northern Policy Research Institute under Assemblyman Na Chang-chu and the West Sea Problems Research Institute under Assemblyman Yi Kung-kyu are providing full lateral [as published] support as Wolgyesuhoe's subordinate organizations.

The Northern Policy Research Institute is said to be inseparably related to Wolgyesuhoe because its director, Assemblyman Na Chang-chu is a key member of Wolgyesuhoe and his office is next to the office of Wolgyesuhoe on the same floor in Building 63, with the two offices divided by a panel.

According to rumors, under a plan to complete the organization of sub-chapters at the county level, Wolgyesuhoe has begun to look for persons to head these sub-chapters.

The following persons are said playing the key role in the current membership expansion drive of Wolgyesuhoe: Yi Chae-hwang, chairman of Wolgyesuhoe; Na Chang-chu, director of the Northern Policy Research Institute; Kang Chae-sop, the Volunteer Service Corps under the National Youth Federation [chonchongnyon]; Kim Chon-il, chief of the Wolgyesuhoe Secretariat; Chi Tae-sop, advisor to Wolgyesuhoe for the Kwangju and South Cholla area; Mr. J working at the Ministry of Sports; and Kim Yong-kyun, advisor to Wolgyesuhoe for the Pusan area.

Of these figures, Kim Chong-yol, chief of the Wolgyesuhoe secretariat, was Pak Chol-on's high school classmate, both of them members of the 41st graduating class of Kyongbuk High School. Reportedly, he served successively as chief engineer of Ssanyong Shipping Company and chief of the planning department of the Seamen's Union.

Mr. J was also Pak Chol-on's classmate at Kyongbuk High School. He enlisted 100,000 people as volunteers for the 1988 Olympiad, earning his fame as a "wizard of organization." In recognition of his organizing talent, he has been enlisted in Wolgyesuhoe's current membership expansion drive.

Self-Supply of Operating Funds as Matter of Principle

What draws attention in connection with Wolgyesuhoe's membership expansion drive is the question of its operating funds.

According to a Wolgyesuhoe source, Wolgyesuhoe's central headquarters needs about 20 million won per month in operating expense, and the total operating funds for the whole organization including local sub-chapters would amount to several hundred million won.

It is the unanimous view of the persons concerned that given the stepped up activities associated with the current expansion drive in particular, Wolgyesuhoe will need much more funds.

Reportedly, part of the necessary funds for the Wolgyesuhoe central headquarters is borne by Pak Chol-on, Chairman Yi Chae-hwang, and the advisors. An interested Wolgyesuhoe official hinted that in regional chapters, necessary funds are raised by each local council "under its own responsibility" as a matter of principle.

A Wolgyesuhoe source said that "most of the chairmen, that is, responsible persons, of sub-chapters are businessmen operating small or medium-scale enterprises; accordingly, there is little difficulty in raising funds."

Despite these explanations of concerned officials, the prevailing view is that a certain amount of support funds is provided to each local sub-chapters by the central headquarters.

In connection with Wolgyesuhoe's source of funds, attention is focused on reports that three groups which have H as their initials are also providing support.

In this regard, a concerned official said that "it is quite logical to assume that measures for raising funds have been worked out at the central headquarters level," thus hinting at sources of a special support fund.

However, these moves on the part of Wolgyesuhoe centering on Pak Chol-on are causing disquietude among his rivals, and this makes it uncertain where the current expansion drive will lead to.

Regarding the moves by Pak Chol-on described above, the followers of the "anti-Pak line" spearheaded by key DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] assemblymen do not hesitate to make the black-and-white charge that "his factional lineup is one which lacking self-survivability, can only exist under the aegis of President No." On the other hand, they are overtly afraid of the possibility that some of their men will shift their allegiance.

Analysts say that at any rate, Pak Chol-on's current move, undertaken for regeneration with the conviction that "he who is afraid of change can create nothing," will have an enormous impact not only on Pak Chol-on himself but also on the political world in the future.

* PPD Demands Implementation of Local Autonomy

912C0009 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
18 Sep 90 p 19

[Article by reporter Yi Chong-kak: "Local Autonomy, One Time or Gradual Implementation"]

[Text] Editor's Note: Local autonomy has emerged as the most important issue in relation to the return of the opposition party assemblymen to the National Assembly. At a press conference on 14 September, Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], requested the ruling party to give up the idea of implementing a parliamentary system and to immediately implement local autonomy throughout the nation as a negotiation proposal. As for the constitutional amendment for a parliamentary system, President No Tae-u and Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] chairman, Kim Yong-sam, have already expressed their opinion that "if the people and the opposition party oppose the parliamentary system, we will not enforce it." Therefore, the major point at issue has been reduced to the two that the opposition party has been insisting on: a nationwide simultaneous election of local assemblymen and heads of local self-governing bodies in the next year and the adoption of the political party nomination system for selecting candidates for local autonomy officials. This article is a summary of the positions of each political party and various interests groups on these issues. [end editor's note]

Timing of Implementation

Although the ruling and the opposition parties together revised the laws related to local autonomy on two occasions, one in April 1988 and the other in December 1989, they have not yet implemented the system. The people are criticizing the ruling party by saying that the party "broke the promise," and "neglected the people."

While the people urge the political circles to implement local autonomy as soon as possible, there are two different opinions on the election timing and methods; that is, a one time or a gradual implementation. Furthermore, some circles, including the financial communities, are even insisting on postponing the implementation based on bad national economy.

Professor Cho Chang-hyon, director of the Center for Research on Local Autonomy of Hanyang University, commented that "Politicians have broken their promises several times to implement the system solely on account of their own political parties' interests and tactics" and urged the government that "Since the preparation work to decentralize the central government's power to local cities and provinces is almost complete, the election of officials for local governments should be held as soon as possible."

Professor Cho also said, "I believe either an overall election during the first half of next year or a gradual election within two to six months can be held."

An Chong-shi, a political science professor of Seoul National University (SNU), said, "Although politicians claim that the procedure is complicated and it is very costly to simultaneously carry out the election of both local assemblymen and officials of local government bodies, I think it is not insurmountable." and insisted that "basically, both elections should be held simultaneously."

No Chong-hyon, a public administration professor of Yonsei University, pointed out that "By breaking their promise to hold an election of local assemblymen during the first half of this year, political circles are greatly distrusted by the people" and argues that "Since the government's Local Autonomy Planning Committee has made substantial preparations, the election of local assemblymen can be held between October and December of this year if they intend to do so."

Another supporting argument for the PPD's insistence on an overall election for self-government officials during the first half of the year for fullfiling the government's promise is that "Since even during the Korean war in the early 1950's an overall local autonomy was implemented, it is nonsense that the government of current size with the people's enhanced understanding of politics cannot implement the system."

The PPD's position is that the party cannot compromise at all on the agreement made by the chairmen of the four political parties on 19 December 1989 that during the first half of 1990 an overall local autonomy will be implemented.

Since the first half of 1990 has already gone, the PPD conceded that the party can decide on a new timing for the election of local assemblymen through discussions with the ruling party. The PPD made it clear, however, that the election should be held no later than the first half of next year.

The PPD insists that since the local assemblymen election cannot be held this year due to the lack of election laws, it should be held next year together with the election of local government officials.

Those who insist on a one-time election are saying that a simultaneous election of local assemblymen and officials for local government bodies is certainly possible by quoting that "In the United States, about 10 different elections are held simultaneously including the federal and state congresses and local government officials" according to Professor An Chong-shi.

On the other hand, however, there is also a strong opinion that since an implementation of the local autonomy at one time is premature, considering the economic condition and election climate in our country, the system should be implemented gradually.

Pak Tong-so, a public administration professor of SNU, pointed out that "Since local autonomy is a big task of distributing power for a country that has been accustomed to centralism for such a long time, an overall implementation may not be a good idea" and suggested, "Therefore, a local assemblymen election should first come to satisfy the people's desire for participating in the autonomy. It is desirable to gradually implement the election for local self-governing officals as a second step."

Professor Pak also said that it is desirable, especially from an economic consideration, to carry out the election of local assemblymen during the first half of next year, and the election of officials for local government bodies simultaneously with the general election of the national assemblymen in 1992 or with the presidential election in 1993.

Chong Se-uk, a public administration professor of Myongji University, also said that "From a political ethics standpoint, a general election should be held. But I feel pessimistic about it, considering the reality of our nation" and suggested that the election of local assemblymen be held during the first half of next year and an election of other officials of local government should either be held during the 14th general election by supplementing deficiencies, if found in the assemblymen election, or together with the second local assemblymen election.

Another idea which has been suggested proposes a three step implementation.

Kim Ho-chin, a public administration professor of Korea University, emphasized that "A quick change in the system will create a great amount of shock and it would be difficult to control the resulting chaos. Therefore, the system should be implemented gradually and progressively." He suggested a three step implementation; first an election of local assemblymen for larger districts; second, an election of other officials of large districts' local governments, and last, an election of officials of the basic unit's self-governing bodies.

In addition to the ideas for gradual implementation, there is a different opinion suggesting an exemplary implementation of the system to some select areas before an overall implementation.

Min Chun-ki, a political science professor of Kyonghi University, expressed his opinion by saying, "It is desirable to implement the system in a couple of financially capable areas as exemplary districts by holding the local assembly election during the next general election."

There is yet a different opinion saying that because of the 14th general election in 1992 and the presidential election in 1993, the self-government election should not be held next year.

Professor An Pok of Yonsei University argues that it is desirable to carry out the local assemblymen election together with the general election by saying, "If we carry out an election every year for the next three years, the situation might become similar to the one of the South American nations."

Six economic organizations, including the Federation of Korean Businessmen and the Korea Trade Association, made a public announcement last February hoping for a delay in the implementation of local autonomy by saying, "The costly election for local assemblymen will cause an increase in currency and consumer prices which will in turn make a national economic situation even more difficult."

Although they are not against local autonomy, the economic and financial circles still hope that the implementation of the system will be carried out without causing any trouble in the national economy.

Some DLP assemblymen are privately saying, "Under current circumstances, the local autonomy should not be implemented for a substantial period of time," considering the low level of the National Assembly which often provokes low-class quarrels in the Assembly, corrupted election process, and aggravating regional emotion.

Some people have expressed their concerns about the economic impacts resulting from an execution of a local assembly election in the first half of next year, considering the recent consumer price hike, a sharp drop in the stock market, and negotiations concerning the Uruguay Round.

Party Nomination of Candidates for Local Self-Government Officials

It was also agreed at the four political parties' meeting at the end of last year that candidates for the local assembly and other local government will be nominated by political parties. It became an issue since the new DLP, which was formed by merging the three political parties, is opposed to the party nomination system.

The PPD argues that the party nomination system should be thoroughly implemented not only in the local assembly election but also in the election of officials for local government bodies, because first of all, it was agreed by the four political parties, and the basis of democracy is party politics.

In other words, if the party nomination is excluded in the process of implementing the local autonomy, the ruling party's tyranny and running alone are of great concern. Therefore, there is a clear need for the opposition party's role as a means of check and balance.

In response to the PPD's concern, the DLP emphasizes that if party nomination is allowed, regional emotion, which is already a problem, will get even worse. Therefore, the party nomination system might seriously damage the original intention of implementing local autonomy.

Although the DLP superficially attributed the reason for opposing the party nomination system to the concern about worsening the regional emotion, the real reason may be that the DLP cannot be sure of a victory if the party nomination system is adopted for selecting the candidates for local government officials.

Especially, in the event that a ruling party candiate is defeated by the PPD candidate in the election of larger district heads such as mayor of Seoul, not only will the ruling party's morale drop but the ability to mobilize administrative power in the forthcoming general and presidential elections will also greatly diminish.

If this is the case, the opposition circles including the PPD, will carry out the elections in a much more favorable condition for them, compared to the last election.

This is why the ruling and the opposition parties are as fiercely fighting over the party nomination issue as on the timing of the implementation of the local autonomy.

As for the party nomination issue, authorities are generally in favor of the party's involvement in the election of local government officials. "Since there is no law prohibiting such an involvement, the party nomination system should be allowed," said Professor Cho Chang-hyon of Hanyang University, and "The participation of political parties in the local autonomy is a worldwide trend" said Professor Min Chun-ki of Kyonghi University.

It is pointed out, however, that although the party nomination system is allowed, regulatory measures should be prepared to prevent overly heated election practices and to reduce the election expenses.

Professor Song Pok opposed the party involvement by saying "Since the local autonomy is to elect people who will work for the benefit of the local government, the involvement of the central government in the local autonomy is improper."

Burma

3-11 Nov Visit by Human Rights Expert Reported

BK2711102390 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 15 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] The 46th session of the Commission on Human Rights had in its resolution passed on 15 February 1990 decided to appoint an independent expert to carry out contacts with the Myanmar [Burma] government on developments relating to the human rights situation in Myanmar. After consultation with the Myanmar authorities, the Chairman of the 46th session of the Commission on Human Rights appointed Professor Sadako Ogata as an Independent Expert. This led to the visit of Professor Sadako Ogata to Myanmar from 3 to 11 November 1990.

With the visit of Professor Ogata, Myanmar will continue to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies. Professor Sadako Ogata's visit was not to investigate any single subject but to observe and note the developments in the related subjects in which the Commission is taking up its consideration.

The issues discussed by the Independent Expert are:

A. Present functions of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)
B. Develoments since the 27 May 1990 multi-party general elections.
C. Personal freedoms
D. Administration of justice
E. Improvement of the living environment
F. Minority rights
G. Disruptive activities of insurgents
H. Any other issues which government authorities may wish to raise.

PRC Official Received by Top Military Officers

BK2911142090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] A PRC delegation headed by Mr. Tang Zhongwen, vice minister of the Ministry for Machine Building and Electronics, flew in to Yangon [Rangoon] this afternoon and was received by Commodore Than Nyunt, Navy chief of staff; Brigadier General Thein Win, Air Force chief of staff; Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of signals; high-ranking military officials; Lieutenant Colonel Kyi Lwin, director general of the Information and Broadcasting Department; U Soe Tha, managing director of the Myanmar [Burma] Communications Service, and responsible officials; and Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, PRC ambassador, and staff members of the PRC Embassy.

At 1515 today, Mr. Tang Zhongwen, vice minister of the Ministry for Machine Building and Electronics, and his party called on General Than Shwe, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services and commander in chief of the Army, at the Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defense.

Also present at the meeting were Major General Tin U, Army chief of staff; Brigadier General Abel, director for procurement; Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of signals; Brigadier General Nyunt Tin, director of Armor; and U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department.

Accompanying the visiting vice minister to the meeting was Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, PRC ambassador.

In the evening, Major General Khin Nyunt, director of Defense Services Intelligence, held a dinner in honor of the visiting PRC delegation at the No. 2 Guest House of the Defense Services.

UN Officials Hold Drug Control Talks in Rangoon

BK1911145990 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. (Alan Halworth), official of the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control, and Dr. (Doris Battenbeck), who are in Myanmar [Burma] to study the narcotics control project being undertaken as a cooperative effort between the United Nations and Myanmar, called on U San Thein, secretary of the Central Narcotic Drugs Abuse Control Board and director general of police.

Also present at the meeting, which discussed drug abuse control programs jointly carried out by the United Nations and Myanmar, were Police Brigadier General Pe Khin, adjutant general of the People's Police Force Headquarters, and Police Lieutenant Colonel Soe Tint, deputy director of the Narcotics Division.

Wa State Party on Stance on Poppy Cultivation

BK2911131390 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Wa State in Burmese 1145 GMT 29 Nov 90

["Statement by the United Wa State Party on the efforts made and the methods employed by the Wa State regarding the elimination of poppy cultivation"; issued in Burma on 26 August 1990]

[Text] 1. The Basic Situation

History shows that poppy cultivation has been going on in the Wa State for more than a hundred years, and poppy has also been the main source of income for the people of all nationalities in the region. Today, the yearly poppy production in the region is around 900 to 1,000 tons, and poppy is cultivated on over two thirds of the cultivable land in the Wa State.

2. Methods

Speaking for the whole of mankind, opium affects the health, and hampers and endangers the development of mankind, causes social backwardness, and causes greater instability in society. Hence, although opium on the practical side is the principal commodity and the key source of income for Wa State, we are intuitively aware of and are concerned about the following:

A. that we bear the brunt of international opposition and protests;
B. that domestic drug use causes social unrest and poverty in the state and affects the health of the people, and;
C. that poppy cultivation in the region causes the number of drug users to increase with time and the public health to deteriorate while it disrupts the economy and greatly affects the efforts to promote productive forces and agricultural cultivation and production.

Social advancement and national development may be [words indistinct] because of such bad recurring effects.

Because of the root causes and the dangers stated above and in order to change the situation in which the people had to mainly rely on opium, we of the United Wa State Party have had frequent rounds of discussions. In accordance with the spirit of the 10-year plan to advance and develop the Wa State, a separate policy and guiding principles on narcotic drugs were drafted and prescribed. They are:

A. To eliminate the cultivation of poppy in the Wa State.
B. To make the people understand about the dangers posed by opium and to strengthen the propaganda and educational campaign aimed at eliminating the cultivation of poppy.
C. To expand the cultivation of key cash crops under the 10-year development plan. For instance, to substitute poppy cultivation with rubber, coffee, and fruit plantations and to promote the rural handicraft industry so that there will be less reliance on the yearly income derived from poppy cultivation.
D. To campaign actively both at home and abroad to win sympathy and support for our efforts against opium. At the same time, we—will strive both at home and abroad to win moral, economic, or material assistance for our efforts to eliminate poppy cultivation.

3. Tasks

Since the elimination of poppy cultivation has already been adopted by us as a guideline, it is something that we will be undertaking with great determination until success is achieved. To speak our mind, we want to get the work done immediately and with positive results. But, concrete facts before us say it is not possible to resort to simple administrative commands to successfully eliminate poppy cultivation. Hence, efforts must be made depending on the existing conditions to implement the concrete tasks aimed at resolving real problems, and only that can provide guarantees for the elimination of poppy cultivation.

A. We shall strengthen the propaganda teams in districts, divisions, states, and townships and educate the people about the dangers of drugs and about the need to stop poppy cultivation. Through this way, the habits and views that we have inherited and accepted as truth over different phases of history will be changed and improved upon.

B. Effective substitution of poppy plantations with other cash crops is to be carried out in accordance with the framework of the 10-year development plan and on the basis of the district and township people having a clear outlook and understanding regarding opium.

C. Commanders, combatants, and staff workers of party administrative organs and the army departments are to stay clear of poppy cultivation and opium trading. This rule shall be strictly observed by all.

D. Under a situation in which we cannot yet provide for the basic food, clothing, and shelter needs of the people, the ban on poppy cultivation shall not be imposed through the use of force. This is only to prevent the people from being dissatisfied and angry with us. These are the lessons that we have learned from the era of the Burma Communist Party.

E. We shall open drug addiction treatment centers in every region, admit drug addicts below the age of 50, and provide treatment for separate groups within specified time frames. We shall firstly educate these people and cure their addiction depending on their will power as well as through the use of force. Following the treatment, a ban on poppy use and cultivation is to be imposed simultaneously.

F. In light of our present economic strength and because of material shortages, we are truly facing many difficulties in trying to introduce changes to the cultivation and production of the crop that has customarily been considered important throughout the history of Wa State.

Hence, we sincerely hope to obtain support from the local sources and assistance from abroad. This is only because we wish to successfully fulfill that great, difficult, and historic task. In particular, we ardently wish to work under the directive of and obtain dynamic assistance from the world body for drug abuse control. In addition, if we are to get the technical, economic, and material assistance that we want, we will be able to help resolve the food, clothing, and shelter needs of the local people and thereby limit to the shortest time possible the grace period for poppy cultivation and quickly realize the objective of totally eliminating opium production.

Signed: The United Wa State Party, Myanmar [Burma], dated 26 August 1990.

Eight Wounded in Explosion at Myawadi Checkpoint

BK2811141490 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Excerpts] At 0930 this morning, an explosive device believed to be a time bomb detonated in the open space near the checkpoint at Myawadi [on the Thai-Burma border]. The explosion took place near the site where pedicab drivers and workers are registered.

The explosion wounded eight people—four pedicab drivers and four workers. [passage omitted] The wounded were immediately sent to the Myawadi People's Hospital for treatment.

Authorities concerned are conducting an urgent investigation of the explosion.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Supports UN Resolution on Iraq

BK3011054190 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0444 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has consistently condemned any and every act of aggression by one country over another and this is why it has voted for the UN Security Council resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan 15.

This was stated by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in a statement Friday [30 November] explaining why Malaysia chose to vote for the resolution.

We do not condone nor accept the use of force in the settlement of disputes between states, let alone an outright military invasion. This is why Malaysia has given its support to Security Council Resolution 678, he said.

He said the decision (to support the resolution) had not been an easy one for the Malaysian Government to make, and the government had considered very carefully all the various factors regarding the situation between Iraq and Kuwait before arriving at its decision.

He added: Malaysia is always conscious of the responsibility entrusted upon it as a member of the UN Security Council. As a small nation and member of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] and the Nonaligned Movement, it is Malaysia's duty to support and uphold the unity and resolve of the council to confront aggression and restore peace.

Malaysia's stand against strong nations invading or annexing small nations is well-known. We cannot compromise on this.

He also said that the governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt and other OIC countries had appealed for Malaysia's support at the Security Council and this appeal weighed heavily in its consideration as Kuwait was one such small country which had been invaded and annexed by a powerful neighbour, Iraq, on Aug 2.

Noting that Malaysia had cosponsored and supported various UN resolutions for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, he said: Unfortunately, and much to our regret, Iraq has not evinced any willingness to comply with the resolutions calling for peaceful and unconditional withdrawal and restoration of Kuwait to its legitimate government and people.

We, therefore, share the view that Iraq should be reminded of its obligations to the United Nations Charter and under international law and that a final opportunity be given to Iraq to adhere to the ten previous resolutions adopted by the council within a definite time frame before further action is taken.

It is now for Iraq to make possible a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis which started with its invasion of Kuwait, he added.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia had been "less than happy" over the United States' ambivalent stand on the questions of peace in the Middle East, particularly on the question of Palestine and Israel's brutal treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

He called on Washington to show its serious concern for the rights of the Palestinians and its resolve to move towards a just and even-handed approach to the various issues affecting the Middle East.

But, we believe the fate of Kuwait and its people cannot be subjected to the solution of the Palestine question. We do not believe Iraq's invasion of Kuwait can be a means to solve the Palestine question.

We reiterate our unequivocal support for the Palestinians and demand that the Security Council fully address itself urgently to this problem in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, he added.

The prime minister also urged Iraq to take heed of and abide by this urgent call of the international community to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait before Jan 15, next year.

"It is our fervent hope that the use of force can be avoided. It is essential that Iraq respond positively and comply with this resolution to avoid war," he said.

Youths Protest Gulf Policy at U.S. Embassy

BK2811153790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 28 (AFP)—The Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) and 37 other organisations Wednesday held a peaceful demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy here to protest against the use of force to resolve the Gulf crisis.

The demonstrators led by MYC President Abang Yusof Abdul Razak and Mohamad Annuar Tahar, the secretary-general of the Malaysian Moslem Youth, wanted to hand over a protest note but were not allowed into the embassy, BERNAMA news agency said.

Mr. Yusof was quoted as saying that the MYC would send a peace mission to Iraq soon in efforts to prevent a war. He also urged the Malaysian Government not to vote for a United Nations Security Council resolution authorising the use of force to resolve the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Malaysia is a non-permanent member of the council and the Cabinet is expected to decide Wednesday on Kuala Lumpur's stand on the resolution, which is sponsored by the United States.

Daily Views Water, Gas Accord With Singapore

BK2711155390 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 Nov 90 p 18

[Editorial: "Boosting Bilateral Bonds"]

[Text] Last Saturday Malaysia and Singapore signed three agreements—two of them on the supply of water from Johor, and one on the piping of gas from Kertih. These fresh accords are the products of rather protracted and tough negotiations. To lend momentum to the negotiating process, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew staged a whirlwind visit to meet his counterpart Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed in Kuala Lumpur in late August 1986. Subsequently, both leaders signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-1988. Saturday's signing signifies not only that the remaining hurdles have finally been cleared, but also that bilateral relationship is now heading towards a new era of even closer and probably more mutually beneficial cooperation.

From Johor's point of view, the perceived inequity in the 1962 Water Supply Agreement has now been redressed. There is adequate compensation for the development of the huge Sungai Linggiu dam project which entails the flooding of 15,000 hectares of forested land. Singapore will also have to pay more for additional supply above the quantum spelt out in the 1962 agreement (according to which Singapore is allowed to draw up to 250 millions gallons per day (mgd) of water from the Sungai [river] Johor). Moreover, Singapore will have to invest its own money in infrastructural development to meet its future water needs.

Since Singapore has taken so much time to dot the i's and cross the t's, it can be assumed that the new agreements have also been consummated to serve its own national interests. While Johor has been justly concerned with the economic return of its abundant water resource, Singapore has rightly been governed by the logic of supply (its adequacy as well as reliability). Because of existing constraints, Johor is now able to supply only about half of Singapore's daily water needs. Although the 300 mgd Linggiu project should be able to cope with the anticipated demand in the republic at least up to the year 2000, Singapore leaders have already started looking to other possible sources (Indonesia and Pahang have been mentioned) to augment future supply over a longer time frame (up to the so-called peak year of 2010). Nevertheless, Johor (which has been supplying water to Singapore since 1927) is expected to remain the main (if not the sole) supplier for a very long time to come.

The agreement signed by Petronas [Malaysian oil company] and Singapore's Public Utilities Board [PUB] is for the supply of 150 million cubic feet of gas per day for a 15-year period starting from early 1992. With the completion of the Peninsular Utilisation State II project, gas will be delivered through a submarine pipeline from Plentong in Johor Baru to the Senoko power station in Singapore. Both Petronas and the PUB will share the cost of constructing this section of the gas transmission network.

In the pipeline are other important bilateral projects which are bound to further reinforce the relationship of the two countries in the near future. When the second Causeway linking Johor and Singapore is completed, their relationship "will be even more closer" (to quote Me Lee Kuan Yew) and their growing interdependence "even greater". According to one report, a high level bridge and a 43-km expressway will be built at a total cost of more than $1 billion. This project will be privatised.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba recently disclosed that Malaysia has agreed in principle to Mr Lee's suggestion for extending Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system to Johor Baru. Although the proposed extension is unlikely to be carried out "in the foreseeable future" (to quote a Singapore Minister), the MRT link is expected to help ease the perennial congestion at the existing Causeway as well as to further boost tourism and other trade in Johor.

Mr Lee's proposal for extending co-operation to other States such as Sarawak and Pahang should further enhance bilateral relations if properly implemented. The deepening of bilateral co-operation as well as the strengthening of mutual trust and confidence is bound to benefit both countries which are traditionally such close neighbours.

Sabah Warned About 'Anti-Central' Sentiment

BK2811144990 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 11 Nov 90 p 10

[Editorial: "A Negative Development in Sabah"]

[Text] The situation in Sabah could be considered as having become more sensitive considering recent developments there. Such a situation is not the result of Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan's Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) opting out of the Barisan Nasional [National Front—NF] but is due to the party's actions after it joined the opposition. It is neither wrong for Sabahans to elect PBS nor for the party to form an opposition because Malaysia operates under a democratic system.

Every individual has his Constitutional right to select any party to form a state government. But, it is inappropriate for a certain group to abuse democracy as a means of achieving personal political aspirations while brushing aside the state and people's interests. Democracy is meant to create justice, solidarity, and peace and not to cause dissension and discord. Democracy should be fully exercised in an effort to administer the state with greater proficiency and effectiveness for the sake of guaranteeing the people's future.

The establishment of the Institute of Political Economics (IEP) by the PBS should be given serious consideration. If the institute's objective is only to train a basic party force to face future challenges as stated by Datuk Pairin, then such an issue should not be further delved into because it is within the PBS leader's rights to further enhance his party mechanism. Also, that institute can directly provide guidance to Sabahans in assisting the Sabah state government toward implementing state development programs more effectively.

But it is inappropriate and considered as sensitive if such an institute was established just to function as a political institution where cadres would be politically indoctrinated with state ideology or party extremism, and above all, with anti-central government sentiment.

If the PBS has such an ulterior motive, particularly if it was Datuk Pairin's, then it could be considered that Datuk Pairin had made a decision that falls short of a Malaysian attitude. Besides, it can be reasoned that such a move was undertaken just to create a new separate political power in Sabah. If the PBS continues with such an aspiration, it is possible that not only will Sabahans be influenced by the anti-federal government sentiment in the future but they will also end up bearing resentment for people from the other states, particularly those from Peninsular Malaysia. This is a grave concern.

The PBS' recent action clearly indicated that it was making an effort to dissociate Sabah and its people from the central government and peninsular Malaysians. The PBS had utterly disappointed the NF by withdrawing from it at the eleventh hour and joining the opposition when the country's general election was in progress. It also ventured to take numerous actions that were based on anti-central government sentiment. For example, the state government did not adhere to the central government's basic policies. On the other hand, it expelled some central government executive officials who were holding executive appointments in several state agencies. It also openly criticized the central government administration. Taking into account all these developments, it could be considered that the PBS' current actions are not due to political differences but are a result of the party's greater aspirations. Only PBS leaders, including Datuk Pairin himself, know of such obscured objectives.

Such a political trend is hazardous to the country's stability, solidarity, and peace. Malaysia is a small country that needs to ensure continuous stability in order to implement its various development programs. It also needs everyone's support and contributions, including support from PBS, to implement its programs that benefit the citizens. In this connection, Malaysia cannot afford to have serious internal problems that could be ignited by a certain individual. Therefore, people who cherish peace should fully extend their undivided support to the authorities so that they can stem any activity that might threaten national stability.

Even though political differences exist, Sabah state leaders and the community should remind themselves of the state's objectives and aspirations when it joined the other states in forming the Federation of Malaysia 27 years ago. The foundation laid then put forth the consolidation of all resources and energy in an effort to develop the state and its people, alongside Sarawak and peninsular Malaysia.

The principal objective of the development and unity program was to create a peaceful and harmonious Malaysian race. Sabahans can decide for themselves what is best for them to ensure a bright and secure future. It is important to note that Sabah is currently not fully independent because the state is still lacking in various aspects, particularly in economic resources and expertise. We fear that if Sabah takes a wrong step forward, it will plunge into a perilous pitfall.

Mahathir on Adherence to Constitutional Monarchy

BK3011070190 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Supreme Council has reappointed Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak as UMNO Youth head and Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz as Wanita [Women] UMNO head. The appointments were announced by UMNO President Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir after chairing a meeting of the party's Supreme Council in Kuala Lumpur. He said the appointments would remain effective until the party polls three years from now.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed confirmed that a total of 1,519 delegates would attend the party's general assembly today. He said the results of today's elections to the vice president's post and to seats in the Supreme Council are expected to be known in the earlier hours of tomorrow.

On the resolution on constitutional monarchy, the party president said UMNO has no intention of doing away with the present system of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. He said the decision to debate the resolution openly does not violate any laws.

Cambodia

Thai Army Reports Troop Buildup Near Border

BK3011012490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 29 (AFP)—Cambodian Government troops are building up and moving heavy weapons near guerrilla-held territory along the Thai-Cambodian border ahead of heavy fighting in the upcoming dry season, Thai Army officers said Thursday.

Heavy fighting is expected to erupt in the area despite ongoing peace negotiations among the warring Cambodian factions, Colonel Wirachai Phruksayachiwa of the Burapha Task Force stationed on the border, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) east of here, said.

"They are not interested in negotiating. They are more interested in using their forces to fight each other and take each others' territory," Thai Supreme Command Spokesman Lieutenant General Narudon Detpradiyut said. The senior officers were speaking at a monthly press conference here.

"Fighting will be heavier than in the past, especially in the areas from Svay Check and Trea villages to Thmar Puok District in Banteay Meanchey Province," Col. Wirachai said. "The Cambodian military of (President) Heng Samrin is no doubt reinforcing its troops and ammunition from the inside," he added.

Svay Check, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) east of the border inside Cambodia, and Thmar Puok, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of there fell to non-communist forces after Vietnam ended a decade-long military occupation of Cambodia in September last year.

Government forces have since retaken Svay Check, while the guerrillas still hold Thmar Puok.

These strategic positions lie north of a key government supply depot at Sisophon, the capital of Northwestern Banteay Meanchey Province where guerrilla forces of the tripartite resistance coalition maintain sanctuaries.

The coalition groups the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, which ruled Cambodia for nearly four years until Vietnam invaded that country in late 1978 to install the current government, with two non-communist factions led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann.

There were also signs of increasing military activity around the lucrative gem-mining area of Pailin, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Sisophon near the border, Rear Admiral Aran Sutthichat said.

The Khmer Rouge claimed earlier this week that its forces had repulsed an attack by some 1,200 government troops on Highway 10 near Pailin, which has become a crucial source of income for the Marxist guerrilla faction.

Hun Sen Says Forces Ready for Khmer Rouge

BK2911152290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 29 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Thursday his army was ready to counter any military offensive by the Khmer Rouge, reported to be eyeing the country's most famous symbol of Angkor Wat.

"We are not war-mongering but...for the survival and safety of the Cambodian people we are ready to counter military ventures of the Khmer Rouge" and its two resistance allies, Mr. Hun Sen said. He was responding to reporters' questions about his government's preparedness to deal with Khmer Rouge attacks, specifically on the 12th century Angkor Wat and other temples in northwest Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge sources in Bangkok said Monday that the guerrillas were preparing to attack the provincial capital of Siem Reap, a few kilometres (miles) from the famed Angkor temple complexes.

They said the attacks would be launched if a planned reconvening of last year's stalemated Paris International Conference on Cambodia ends without forging a peaceful solution.

Mr. Hun Sen said the resistance had boasted after Vietnam pulled out its troops 14 months ago that they would capture Battambang and Siem Reap by December 1989. A year later they were continuing the threats and had violated peace pacts—most recently the September 10 Jakarta accord that agreed to a joint interim authority pending U.N.-supervised election—by continuing aggression, he said.

The premier said his government continued to respect the principle of military self-restraint called for in past agreements and had no intention of launching any offensives against the guerrillas, who control territory along the western and northwestern borders with Thailand. But he said the Phnom Penh army was ready to counterattack if assaulted by the Khmer Rouge. "We believe that our army has the ability to protect the population," he added.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge are the most powerful guerrilla force in the resistance, ruling the country from 1975 until Vietnam ousted them in early 1979.

Khmer Rouge Said Capable of Phnom Penh Siege

BK3011020590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 7

[By Sue Downie]

[Text] Phnom Penh— The Khmer Rouge has moved deep inside Cambodia, according to a report released here this week. The communist guerrillas may now have the ability to surround and isolate Phnom Penh, the report warns.

They have set up transport and communications links in at least half the provinces including those north, west and east of Phnom Penh.

The report talks of terror tactics and massacres, which characterised the Khmer Rouge's brutal 1975-79 rule. "The Khmer Rouge have succeeded in re-establishing themselves deep into the country and can in future undertake the encircling and strangulation of cities as they did in November 1974 to April 1975, which resulted in the fall of Phnom Penh," the report says.

It was released by the Forum of Non-government Organisations (NGOs) in Cambodia, which represents more than 30 international relief agencies providing humanitarian aid in the country.

Since being driven out of Cambodia by the Vietnamese in January 1979, the Khmer Rouge have operated from bases along the Thai-Cambodian border, which may no longer be necessary, the report says. "They are able to transport reserves of weapons and ammunition deep into the country (which means from now on they do without their back bases in Thailand and would not suffer from a possible closure of the frontier if Bangkok would decide so)."

The 14-page assessment was prepared by diplomatic consultant Raoul Jennar, a consultant to the Belgium Senate who is recognised as an authority on Cambodia and previously prepared several similar reports for the NGO Forum.

His latest report details how the Khmer Rouge have now established military lines extending from their Thai camps south and southeast through the western half of the country. "The southernmost points of the penetration axes are 40 km southwest and 95 km southeast of Phnom Penh," the report says.

One line of attack cuts through the centre of the country, from O'trao on the Thai border almost to the Vietnamese border near Svay Rieng. "Troops who appear all along this penetration line show extreme brutality and impose terror. A second axe threatens directly the port of Koh Kong; a third threatens the two main railway lines of the country."

Three opposition factions—the Khmer Rouge and the armies of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former prime minister Son Sann—have been fighting forces of the Phnom Penh Government since 1979.

Since an agreement was signed in Jakarta in September this year, the four factions have been under pressure from the United Nations, the European Community, ASEAN and several Asian countries to impose self-restraint, if not a ceasefire.

To the contrary, Khmer Rouge attacks on villages, roads and rail lines have intensified, the report says. "Despite the advances on the diplomatic scene, in the field nothing changes. The battles continue and are even increasing in number and force."

Hun Sen Briefs on Paris Talks, SNC, Military

BK3011082590 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0434 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 30 Nov (SPK)—Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia, refused to take part in a quadripartite meeting in Paris of Cambodian factions proposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but said he was ready to attend an eventual session of the 12-member Supreme National Council [SNC] and the next forum called by the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC).

He revealed this official position of his government during a news briefing organized in Phnom Penh on Thursday with the participation of some 30 foreign journalists and local mass media workers following an invitation made on 25 November by Prince Sihanouk whose message reached him two days later.

He said: "The quadripartite meeting is now more than outdated and if such a meeting could take place, it would endanger the existence of the Supreme National Council established in Jakarta and which, so far, has remained inactive. All problems should be settled not by such a meeting, but through the SNC, which would consider them on the basis of consensus.

"Therefore, I cannot take part in the quadripartite meeting at the invitation of Prince Sihanouk because it does not conform with the direction of the onward progress. By contrast, I am ready to participate in the session of the 12-member SNC to decide on all pending problems, and I am equally ready to attend the next SNC session at the invitation of the co-chairmen of the PICC who will inform us of the outcome of the recent meetings (the ones in Jakarta and Paris of the big five, the PICC co-chairmen, the representative of the UN secretary general, and the ASEAN countries)."

Prime Minister Hun Sen stressed that this did not mean that the State of Cambodia wants to obstruct the settlement of the Cambodian problem. It meant that we do not want to see a new campaign to torpedo the progress already made, just as it happened in the past.

To a question on the objective of the trip to Paris by his foreign minister Hor Namhong, Chairman Hun Sen affirmed that that trip was made, on the one hand, to get information about the results of the meeting between the five UN Security Council permanent members and the PICC co-chairmen and to make consultations on the work to be done concerning the reconvening of the Paris international conference and the process of a political solution. On the other hand, Mr. Hor Namhong must be present at a trial called by the French tribunal concerning his personal business with Prince Sihanouk.

To a question concerning relations between the government of the State of Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge leaders, Hun Sen recalled the previous position of the State of Cambodia in demanding the dismantling of the Pol Pot clique both politically and militarily, and its present position of preventing the genocidal Pol Pot clique from returning to power.

"Although Khmer Rouge representatives participated in the SNC, he said, our position remains the same, that is, we oppose the return to power by the polpotists. As the representative of the State of Cambodia, I would not sign any document that does not mention the guarantee for their non-return to power. Some people think that there might be a "red solution" between the communists inside the country and those outside; I would like to state precisely here that this is merely wishful thinking by these people.

"If we are obliged to accept a few Khmer Rouge leaders in the SNC, is it because of our own desire or the demands by the West, ASEAN, and China? What choice do we have? When we do not accept the representatives of the Khmer Rouge, people accuse us of blocking the political settlement. But when we accept them, people are worried about the polpotists' return to power."

On the relations of the State of Cambodia with the United States and China, Hun Sen recalled the meeting held by the representative of his government with U.S. and Chinese diplomats, but rejected rumors alleging that Deputy Minister Sok An had made a visit to Beijing. He said that Sino-Cambodian contacts were made on behalf of the SNC, and that the State of Cambodia is always ready to resume contacts with the Chinese since it is 50 percent represented in the SNC.

Concerning the military situation, the Cambodian prime minister stressed that the State of Cambodia is not belligerent, that "our attacks are not offensives" but "counterattacks" to defend the peaceful life of the population, which conforms with the appeal launched by the five members of the UN Security Council on self-restraint concerning military activities.

He went on to say, however, that we are in a position to launch offensives against our enemies when the situation calls for it.

Concerning the first flight made to Phnom Penh by a plane of a private French company (France-Liberte), Hun Sen said that the decision to reestablish the France-Cambodia air contact was made following a visit to Cambodia by French Deputy Foreign Minister Thierry de Beause and the reopening of the Alliance Francaise [French Cultural Center].

Apparently, the reestablishment of the Phnom Penh-Paris line belongs to the purely aeronautical field, but that helps to restore the Khmero-French ties after some 20 years and bears some political significance between France and Cambodia, Hun Sen stressed.

On the military problem following the eventual signing of the cease-fire agreement, Hun Sen said that as a compromise between the previous position of the State of Cambodia and the demand by the other side, "We accept the confinement of troops in places agreed upon by this agreement, but there is no question of disarming them, for it is imperative to prevent the eventual attacks by the Khmer Rouge seeking to seize power." Anyway, Hun Sen said, we must inform UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] of all the military equipment that the different armies have at their disposal.

Further on Hun Sen Remarks on Paris Meeting

BK2911130290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 29 Nov 90

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 29 (AFP)—Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen turned down Thursday an invitation by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to meet with the Cambodian resistance but said he was ready to attend a fresh meeting of a joint sovereignty council.

The premier, whose foreign minister left for Paris Thursday to discuss the peace process with officials, told journalists the meeting called by Prince Sihanouk "is now out of date.

"If such a meeting could take place it would endanger the existence of the SNC (Supreme National Council) already established, which finds itself in an impasse," Mr. Hun Sen said. But Mr. Hun Sen said he was willing to attend a fresh meeting of the SNC "with its 12 members with a view to resolving all issues to be addressed."

He said he was also ready to attend an SNC meeting at the invitation of the co-chairmen of last year's failed Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC)—Indonesia and France—to hear reports of their recent meetings. The two countries have reportedly called for the stalled SNC, grouping all four warring Cambodian factions, to meet in Paris next week.

Mr. Hun Sen did not specify that this was the meeting he was ready to attend. The three resistance factions—supporters of Prince Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge and Son Sann's nationalists—have accepted the prince's invitation.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong left here earlier Thursday for Paris via Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, but not to attend the prince's meeting.

Mr. Hun Sen said his minister would be in Paris to find out details on the meeting on Cambodia last weekend between Indonesia and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Mr. Hor Namhong would also be discussing ways to further the peace process and to attend a court hearing December 6 in Paris with Prince Sihanouk, whom he has sued for slander.

The SNC, grouping all four sides, was set up September 10 under a U.N.-brokered accord in Jakarta. Its first meeting stalled over the issue of composition and leadership and the issue remains unresolved.

Mr. Hun Sen also reiterated here Thursday his rejection of any dismantling of the government and handover of power to the SNC or the proposed United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Some analysts believed the premier did not seem to be in a hurry for a quick settlement. "We have waited for 11 years, we can continue to wait further. If not another 10 or 11 years maybe half that amount," Mr. Hun Sen said, adding: "but I believe a solution must be found. Some people say we have hardened our position, if they say so we can accept it—we would be better off isolated than dead."

Mr. Hun Sen denied he was obstructing the peace process, saying his move was aimed at safeguarding past accords.

An informed Western analyst here said the Phnom Penh government appeared to be in no hurry to negotiate sharing power as its standing had improved with France and the United States this year.

Mr. Hun Sen described as a partly "political gesture" France's opening of a cultural centre here, trade links and the opening this week of a direct Paris-Phnom Penh flight as they helped build long term relations between the two countries.

Trade Union Group Returns From Moscow Congress

BK2911125790 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0410 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 29 Nov (SPK)—A delegation of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions [KFTU] headed by chairman Men Sam-an, member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee, returned to Phnom Penh Tuesday after taking part in the 12th congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) held in Moscow from 13 to 20 November.

It was greeted on arrival by Say Siphon, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee and vice chairman of the KFTU, and other cadres.

During its stay in the Soviet Union, the Cambodian trade union delegation was received by Ewaspychalska, vice chairman of the Central Council of Polish Trade Unions; Kumagai Kanemichi, general secretary of the Japanese Federation of Trade Unions (Zenroren); and Shiilegiyn Batbyar, president of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions.

In her speech at the congress, Mrs Men Sam-an said that the adoption by the congress of a resolution on friendship with the Cambodian workers reflects the congress' support for the goodwill of the Cambodian workers whose aspiration is to live in peace and to defend national independence and their happiness.

Leaders Send Greeting on Albanian National Day

BK2911125390 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0408 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh 29 Nov (SPK)—Cambodian leaders sent warm greetings to Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Albanian Workers Party [AWP] Central Committee and president of the People's Assembly Presidium, and Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist People's Republic of Albania, on the 46th anniversary of Albania's National Day.

The messages, signed by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of Cambodia's Council of State, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, expressed admiration at the achievements made by the Albanian people under the just leadership of the AWP and the Albanian government.

The Cambodian leaders are convinced that the friendly relations between the two countries and peoples will further strengthen and develop with each passing day in the mutual interest of both countries.

They wish the Albanian leaders new successes in the implementation of the new policy of the AWP and the Albanian government for the well-being of the people.

On the same occasion, Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, also sent warm greetings to his Albanian counterpart, Reis Malile.

Rice Production Down in Western Provinces

BK2811123090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Battambang, Cambodia, Nov 28 (AFP)—Rice production is likely to fall this year in Cambodia's most fertile province but output will meet local demand, officials here say. Output is also expected to drop in neighbouring Beantey Meanchey province, which like Battambang faces Thailand and Cambodian resistance guerrillas based on the western border.

Provincial committee officials here said recently that 114,670 hectares (283,235 acres) of paddy had been sown in the fertile province this year.

This was roughly the same as in 1989, but the officials said that this year between 24,000 and 25,000 hectares (59,280 and 61,750 acres) had been flooded during the rainy season.

Total output was estimated at 11[illegible] 401 tonnes but this could increase if rain allowed. The dry season and harvest starts around this time of year but rain still falls occasionally. They also said that output per hectare (acre) had fallen from about 1.8 (4.45) tonnes last year to 1.25 (3.10) tonnes this year.

One official said however that the harvest would meet Battambang's own needs, noting that: "traditionally Battambang does not import rice." The province has a population of about half a million people, according to officials.

Battambang is Cambodia's rice bowl but observers said output and area under cultivation had been cut here and in Beantey Meanchey to the north due to the fighting between the government and the three party resistance coalition.

Banteay Meanchey governor Ith Loeu said 79,000 hectares (195,130 acres) had been planted giving a yield per hectare (acre) of 1.3 (3.2) tonnes. This compared to last year's 87,000 hectares (214,890 acres) each producing 1.47 (3.63) tonnes. He attributed the fall to less land under cultivation and rains coming at the wrong time.

Unlike Battambang, Banteay Meanchey would have to import rice from other provinces to meet the needs of its 350,000 people, Mr. Ith Loeu said.

Since the Vietnamese troop withdrawal of September 1989 both provinces have welcomed large populations of displaced persons most of whom can no longer cultivate their lands.

Cambodian agricultural officials have said they expect the nationwide rice harvest this year to fall below two million tonnes compared to 2.5 million tonnes last year. The country of eight million people needs to produce 2.7 million tonnes a year to become self sufficient. Lack of grain and fertilisers and the war footing in provinces such as this are blamed for the shortfall.

Hun Sen's Refusal To Attend Conference Cited

BK3011071690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hun Sen of the Vietnam-installed Heng Samrin regime said he will not attend the meeting in Paris, France, proposed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and said that the communist Heng Samrin regime is prepared to fight for many more years.

Earlier, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called on the four Cambodian parties to meet in Paris to start the Supreme National Council [SNC] which would pave the way for the reconvening of the Paris conference. The three Cambodian parties of the resistance movement—the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, and the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia—have agreed to attend this meeting.

Earlier, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which adopted the final draft of the agreement on a political solution to the Cambodian problem at the seventh meeting in Paris, also appealed to all Cambodian parties to meet, discuss, and start the SNC working.

Earlier, the Heng Samrin rejected important parts of the peace plan of the five permanent members, such as the dispatch of UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia and the disarming of Cambodian parties during the transitional period.

Khieu Samphan Greetings to Yugoslav Minister

BK3011022090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency Khieu Samphan, vice president of Cambodia in charge of foreign affairs, on 26 November addressed a message to His Excellency Budimir Loncar, foreign minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [SFRY], on Yugoslavia's national day. Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency: On the solemn occasion of the SFRY national day, on behalf of the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national government, and in my own name, I am very happy to express wholehearted congratulations and best wishes to you and the Yugoslav people and government.

The Cambodian people and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces, always highly value the fact that the SFRY and the Yugoslav people have firmly defended the banner of national independence and nonaligned policy. The Cambodian people will always remember that during the difficult phase of their struggle for national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, the Yugoslav people and government have provided precious assistance and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best. May Your Excellency achieve new and greater successes in your precious mission in leading the Nonaligned Movement.

Please accept my highest consideration.

[Dated] 26 November 1990

[Signed] Khieu Samphan

Laos

Soviets Pulling Out of Laos, Reducing Aid

BK3011070590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0553 GMT 30 Nov 90

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 30 (AFP)—Dozens of workers are busy constructing a large new compound for the Soviet community in the Laotian capital of Vientiane. But the accommodation will never be filled, for the Soviets are in the process of pulling out of the country.

"The Soviet community currently numbers some 900 people, but only half of them will still be here next year," said Vadim Serafimov, the second-ranking of the 42 diplomats attached to Moscow's embassy in Vietnam.

Laos, like the other communist Indochinese countries of Vietnam and Cambodia, is a victim of the Soviet Union's disastrous economic situation, which has caused

Moscow to lay down new rules for its trade and aid relations with what is left of its former ideological empire.

"From next year, bilateral trade will be carried out on a basis of world prices and will be paid for in hard currency," Mr. Serafimov, a studious-looking young man with equal facility in French and English, explained. Soviet aid, including military assistance, will also be considerably reduced, he added.

"We are awaiting decisions on the budget which has been discussed for the past three days by the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, to learn the size of the cuts next year, but they should be substantial," Mr. Serafimov warned.

A Soviet economic mission led by Vice-Premier V.K. Gussiev is expected in Vientiane in two weeks' time to discuss the problem with Laotian leaders, he revealed.

However, the five-year bilateral trade and aid programme expires this year and will not be renewed, Mr. Serafimov said. Henceforth there will only be annual plans.

Only one aid project will be maintained next year: The repair of Highway 8, which links the centre of Laos to the Vietnamese coastal city of Vinh, one of the few outlets for this landlocked country.

This year Laos's imports from the Soviet Union, comprising oil, vehicles, fertiliser and manufactured goods, will total 59 million rubles (98 million dollars) while trade the other way, mainly wood, coffee and tin, will come to 22 million rubles (36.5 million dollars), according to Soviet figures.

"No one likes to see these cuts, but the medicine has been swallowed and the Laotian authorities understand the reasons for the reductions," Mr. Serafimov said. "It is not a political change, but the result of the Soviet Union's disastrous economic situation," he said.

Vientiane, meanwhile is looking for new trade partners and sources of aid, and has already started turning to capitalist countries, especially Japan, and above all to China, the regional rival of Laos's ally Vietnam.

Indochinese Leaders To Hold Summit in Vientiane

BK3011012690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 2

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Vientiane—Leaders of the three Indochinese countries will hold a summit meeting this weekend to discuss regional issues and ways to strengthen their relations, a diplomatic source said yesterday. The source said it will be their first meeting in five years. Their last meeting was in Phnom Penh.

Vietnamese President Vo Chi Cong will lead the Vietnamese delegation here today. It will be his first meeting with other two Indochinese leaders in Vientiane with President Heng Samrin of Cambodia and Laotian President Souphanouvong. The Indochinese leaders will also attend the celebration of 15th anniversary of Pathet Lao's victory over the rightist government backed by the United States in 1975.

The source said the summit came amid a flurry of diplomatic activities to find a peaceful solution to the 12-year-old Cambodian problem. "Indochina wants to assert its viewpoint," the source said.

The meeting is likely to support Phnom Penh's firm position that its government must not be dismantled before the election. Last week, the five permanent members of United Nations Security Council agreed to a peace framework that will see the UN playing big roles in administrating the war-torn country during the interim period leading to the election.

In September, representatives of the four Cambodian factions agreed to form an interim authority, officially known as the National Supreme Council. Since then, they have been wrangling over who will head the council. Major countries have warned the Cambodian parties to get their act together otherwise their joint effort will be fruitless.

Agreement on Investment in Air Service Signed

BK2911142690 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, November 29 (KPL)—An agreement on investment in international air service in Laos was signed here yesterday between the Lao Aviation and the Del Chang Import-Export Incorporation, Miami, Florida, USA.

Signing the agreement were Oundeuan Satlithian, head of the Lao Aviation, and Mrs. Sinawibun Siriwongchang and Mr. Chang Tien Hu, both presidents of the Del Chang Import-Export Incorporation. [Words indistinct] Bouathong, minister of communication, transport, post and construction, Mr. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign economy.

Also on hand were U.S. charge d'affaires to Laos Mr. C. Salmon and first secretary of the Chinese Embassy here.

According to this agreement, the Del Chang Import-Export Incorporation will make 100 per cent investment in international air service business in Laos. The Lao Aviation, which is the local investor, is authorized by the Lao Government to transfer all its right concerning its international air service to the investor who will pay tax at a rate of 20 per cent of profit made to the Lao Government after a four-year grace period.

On sharing the profit from the business undertaking, the Del Chang will receive 60 per cent, whereas the Lao Aviation will receive 40 per cent.

The investment by the Del Chang amounted to 39 million U.S. dollars. The type of planes to be used are two Boeing 737. The agreement is valid for 20 years and can be extended each time for another 10 years.

The present flight routes include Vientiane-Hanoi, Vientiane-Ho Chi Minh, Vientiane-Phnom Penh, and Vientiane-Bangkok. Also open for the future service are the flight routes: Vientiane-Kunming, Vientiane-Moscow, Vientiane-Chiang Mai, Vientiane-Khon Kaeng, and Vientiane-Rangoon.

Fifth Plenary SPA Session Closes in Vientiane

BK2911142690 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Fifth plenary session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] closed with brilliant success this afternoon after six days in session. Attending the closing ceremony as guests of honor were Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nouhak Phoumsavan, party Central Committee Political Bureau member and SPA chairman; Phoumi Vongvichit, party Central Committee Political Bureau member and acting president of the Republic; members and alternate members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; members of the party Central Committee; ministers; deputy ministers; SPA members; and members of the diplomatic corps in Laos.

The presidium of the SPA session endorsed seven draft laws, namely the Labor Law, Family Law, Nationality Law, Insurance Law, Enterprise Accounting Law, Non-Contractual Obligations Law, and Civil Procedures Law. These laws are necessary for the management of the state and social affairs.

Industrial Development in Past 15 Years Noted

BK2911133390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Feature: "Achievements in the Industrial and Handicraft Sectors During the Past 15 Years"]

[Summary] "Since national liberation and formation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 2 December 1975, the party central committee and government have always attached high significance to the development of the industrial and handicraft production and exerted efforts to shift to industrialization step by step. At the initial stage, the government took over factories and production bases whose owners fled the country and put them into production as well as built more new factories and promoted small-scale industries and handicrafts." As a result, more jobs were generated for the people. Such endeavors have, therefore, significantly contributed to the country's socioeconomic development.

In 1975, there were only some 100 factories in the country. The number rose to 295 and 633 in 1985 and 1990 respectively. There were some 5,000 factory workers in 1975 compared to about 19,000 in 1990. The country is now producing food products, beverage, garments, household utensils, medicines, construction materials, agricultural tools, minerals, and electricity for domestic consumption and export as well.

During the past 15 years, electricity production increased from 240 million kilowatt-hours in 1975 to approximately 831 kilowatt-hours in 1990. The expansion of electricity networks in many localities in Vientiane Municipality, Vientiane, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champassak, and Luang Prabang Provinces have helped rural development and promotion of industries and handicrafts. During the period, electricity has become a major export product of our country. Incomplete statistics can be cited to testify to the growth of the country's industrial and handicrafts sector during the past 15 years as follows:

The [annual] production of textile increased from 40,000 to 363,000 square meters, garment production from 16,000 to 1,087,000 pieces, salt from 3,000 to 11,000 tons, soft drinks from 15,000 to 37,000 hectoliters, beer from 8,000 to 43,000 hectoliters, tobacco leaf from 75 to 600 tons, cigarettes from 21 to 26 million packs, detergent from 602 to 2,000 tons, coal from 225 to 3,500 tons, plywood from 83,000 to 1 million sheets, brick from 3 to 19 million, gypsum from 20,000 to 100,000 tons, and agricultural tools from 14,000 to 30,000 units. Moreover, the production of corrugated iron sheets, lead, cement, furniture, concrete products, ornaments, and others is also increasing.

During the period under review, geological surveys were conducted in several parts of the country and sizeable deposits of valuable minerals such as cement rock, gypsum, ceramic clay, iron, potash, and coal have been discovered.

Philippines

Final Round of Bases Talks Slated for 5 Dec

HK2711052390 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The final round of bases talks is scheduled for 5 December. According to some sources in the Department of Foreign Affairs, the meeting will be short but will be followed by a long consultation with the joint technical committee which will also work during the Christmas season.

Meanwhile, visiting Brunei officials welcome the U.S. facilities in their country. Brunei Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Paduka Haji Mohamed Ali Pehin Haji Mohamed Daud thinks that U.S. military power in his country would give way to sufficient regional stability.

Official Announces 4 Dec Date

HK2911033690 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 29 Nov 90 p 12

[By reporter Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] The third round of Philippine-American Talks begin December 4 with the economic aspects and the issue of duration at the top of the agenda, a ranking Malacanang official disclosed yesterday.

U.S. Special Negotiator Richard Armitage will be arriving on December 3, the official said.

A joint RP[Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. technical committee meeting will be convened today, Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] sources said.

Under the economic aspects of a broad framework cooperation treaty, the Philippines will be seeking debt relief facilities and trade concessions as well as the continuation of present economic support funds and development assistance levels, DFA sources indicated.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has previously said that he would be asking the Americans to give details of their offer to participate in the conversion of the bases to commercial use.

De Villa Envisages Orderly Withdrawal of Bases

HK2911033890 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 29 Nov 90 p 8

[By Romy Mapile]

[Text] The pullout of United States bases from the Philippines should be in the form of an orderly withdrawal, Gen. Renato de Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said recently.

De Villa said "there should be an appropriate period of time for Filipinos to train and operate the equipment and facilities in the bases."

"This is the position of the government in the negotiations between the RP [Republic of the Philippines] and U.S. technical panels on the final date of Philippine takeover of the U.S. bases in the country," De Villa said. "As soon as possible, even before the termination of the bases agreement in September next year, we are asking for joint use or hands-on operations of the equipment by both Filipinos and Americans," he said.

He said the Philippine proposal of five to seven years for the training period and the U.S. counter-proposal of 10 to 12 years are for the technical panels to iron out.

"Even after we have trained to operate the equipment and, eventually actually take over them, we still have to think of how to maintain them," De Villa said. He said "the issue is not whether we are pro or anti bases, but really what is best for our national interest. Our vision is in the future. The Philippines should be able to to stand on its own."

"Even if we maintain alliances for global and regional security, eventually we should learn and be on our own," he said.

Aquino: Bases Panel To Push for Debt Relief

HK3011054190 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino announced that the government would press for debt relief during the next round of talks between the Philippines and the U.S. on the possible extension of U.S. military facilities in the country. This was the president's reaction to the proposal by several senators that the government should suggest a complete writeoff of the $28-billion loan in exchange for the retention of U.S. military bases in the country.

In the meantime, although debt relief would be the primary component of the talks, Philippine officials disclosed that the government could possibly ratify a new treaty on the bases even if no new resolution on the bases issue has been approved.

Gulf Troop Deployment Said Remote Possibility

HK2911050990 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Philippines may still send troops to the Persian Gulf if the tension there worsens. National Security Director Rafael Ileto said that the government will carefully study this possibility, although it is a remote one. He further explained that the country has many internal problems which prevent it from sending troops to the Middle East to help in the multinational coalition opposing Iraq's seizure of Kuwait. According to him, regional events will determine the Philippines' move regarding the tension in the Gulf. Ileto said that the only assistance the country can give the Middle East is to send a medical mission.

Contingency Preparations Follow UN Resolution

HK3011102990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Report by Dick Sinchongco from Malacanang—live or recorded]

[Text] [Sinchongco] President Aquino has ordered Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr., Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Transportation Secretary Oscar Orbos, and other concerned government agencies to implement all contingency measures in response to any eventuality which could result from the UN Security Council resolution granting a 15 January deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait. In her statement, the president explained that although she was still hopeful for a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis, it was necessary for the country to prepare for any negative effects that could result from the possible implementation of the said United Nations resolution.

[Announcer] Dick, does this order include the implementation of a contingency plan relating to the evacuation of our contract workers from Saudi Arabia?

[Sinchongco] Well, all contingency measures needed for any eventuality are to be implemented. It will be recalled that the president recently gave the assurance that the government was ready for a mass evacuation the moment it was necessary to evacuate all remaining Philippine workers from the two countries. It will also be recalled that among the contingency measures ratified was the possible tightening in oil supply and possible rationing.

Ileto Says No Troop Deployment to Middle East

HK3011121390 Quezon City DZBB Radyo Bisig Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Italicized portions in English]

[Text] The Philippines will not send military forces to the Middle East even after the UN Security Council's approval of the use of force against Iraq. According to National Security Council Adviser Rafael Ileto, the Philippines could not maintain troops it sent to the Gulf. Here is Arnold Clavio:

[Begin recording] [Clavio] Secretary Ileto said the Philippines could not sustain troops it deployed in the Middle East because they are more needed to address the country's internal problems. He told Bisig Bayan that as a UN member nation, the Philippines supports the resolution and it is sufficient to send a medical team.

[Ileto] *We do not object to the idea. But a force to implement the idea is another question. That we are not in the position to do it. Before we have done it. We have sent troops in Korea. [Words indistinct] just like in Vietnam, just like in Korea. If Saudi Arabia says they will pay for all, maybe just like we have people in other countries. We don't know.* [words indistinct]

[Clavio] *In spite of this, Ileto said that if the administration changes its mind and decides to deploy troops to the Middle East, it should be approved by Congress.*

[Ileto] *We would not object. It's just that we abide by the resolution because it's an international commitment.* [end recording]

Departure of 500 Filipinos From Iraq Planned

HK3011104390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Italicized portion in English]

[Text] Ambassador Sedfrey Ordonez, Philippine representative to the United Nations, has disclosed that the ultimatum given by the United Nations to Iraq is for an unconditional withdrawal by Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He also reported that the UN Security Council has agreed to the departure of four airplanes from al-Basrah which would bring Filipinos to the Philippines. Here is part of an interview with Ambassador Sedfrey Ordonez by Andy Vidal of DZRH unit No. 15.

[Begin recording] [Ordonez] The signals are clear that if Iraq does not comply, the United Nations is free to use the corresponding means, in their words, *whatever may be necessary.* That is a broad statement which may include even the use of force.

[Vidal] Ambassador, in your opinion, what would be the effect of this on the Filipinos who up to now have not yet left Kuwait and also on those remaining in Iraq?

[Ordonez] From what I know, of those in Kuwait, there are four planeloads ready to depart, because they have already been given permission by the Security Council. We presented a request last night to the Security Council Work Committee, and tonight the order was given allowing the departure of four planes, which have on board around 500 Filipinos coming from al-Basrah. [end recording]

Manila To Assure Li Peng of One-China Policy

HK2311015990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said the Philippines will assure Chinese Premier Li Peng of its one-China policy during his visit to the country. According to Manglapus, the Philippines will also inform the official about its economic situation and its need to strengthen its economic relations with China and with other countries so as to attract foreign investments.

Aquino Approves Use of Loan From Bank of Japan

HK2911141390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino has approved the use of a loan from Japan valued at $200 million. The concessional loan from the Export-Import Bank of Japan was offered to President Aquino during her visit to Tokyo last 11 November.

In a memorandum submitted to President Aquino, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao explained that the loan would also serve as a budgetary support for the country, aside from the assistance it would provide to areas damaged by the 16 July earthquake. It is hoped that this would help increase the country's international dollar reserves. The $200 million loan would be repaid every 10 years for the next 30 years at an interest rate of 2.7 percent per annum.

Armed Forces Chief Places Military on Alert

HK3011021190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa has placed the entire military on alert after receiving reports that rebel soldiers would launch a series of bombings in commemoration of their failed December coup.

Biazon [AFP vice chief of staff] said that the military was preparing plans against any operation to be undertaken by the rebel soldiers. He also refuted speculation that RAM-SFP [Reform the Armed Forces-Soldiers of the Filipino People] members would launch a coup within the next few days and said that this would be suicide on the part of the RAM-SFP, should they proceed with their plan.

President Aquino Dismisses Coup D'Etat Rumors

HK2211111190 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino dismissed a report of a new coup d'etat. It will be recalled that the report was published in the newspapers and that the coup would allegedly be launched between 30 November and 10 December. The president said it was better to pour efforts into the country's problems rather than listen to rumors. Here is the president's statement as read by Assistant Press Secretary Didi Siytangco:

[Begin recording in English] What we should all do is concentrate on doing our jobs and serving our people as best as we can, rather than be wasting our attention giving publicity to all these so-called plots to grab power and commit violence against our people. Our forces and the people determined to remain free stand solidly against these criminals. [end recording]

Ignores Alleged Assassination Plot

HK2311060590 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] President Aquino ignored reports of an assassination plot being hatched by some people against her, saying she will not waste her time attending to issues which do not help solve the country's problems. She stressed that the people themselves would help her prevent some people's plans to topple her government. The president's statement was in reaction to a report published by the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER stating that former Ambassador Eduardo Danding Cojuangco Jr allegedly hired several mercenaries and former CIA intelligence members to liquidate President Aquino. The president said her government gives more importance to the problems facing the country.

Ramos Dismisses Reported December Coup D'Etat

HK2411084890 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Nov 90

[By Restie de Quiros—italicized portions in English]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos dismissed rumors of a coup d'etat next month. According to Ramos, this report is baseless and the people should not worry. He added that if the rebel soldiers should try to launch an uprising, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is fully prepared to defend the government:

[Begin Ramos recording—in progress]...said military source. But I said, assuming that there are military personnel who issued that and it was picked up by a reporter, *that is not the assessment of the commanders who are responsible. We must give some weight* to what General de Villa, General Biazon say because they know the full situation in Metro Manila and within the whole military organization and in all of the country's 14 regions. I don't see anything like that, but we are ready. *This is the assurance given by General de Villa and his commanders* that they are prepared to counter any attempts or disturbance in case the rebels try to launch something. [end recording]

Noble Supporters Reportedly Regroup Under Bibit

HK3011020190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The remaining armed supporters of former Army Colonel Alexander Noble have regrouped under the leadership of former PC [Philippine Constabulary] Colonel Billy Bibit in another attempt to topple the Aquino government.

Colonel Manuel Salimbangon, Region 11 PC-INP [Integrated National Police] commander disclosed that Noble's supporters were presently hiding in Mindanao and had formed a Federal Liberation Army in Bukidnon Province. In his report to Major General Cesar Nazareno, PC-INP chief of staff, Salimbangon did not indicate how large the group of armed rebels was.

Office of Energy Affairs Director Resigns

HK2311055990 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Office of Energy Affairs Executive Director Wenceslao de la Paz has resigned allegedly due to discontent on government mANagement of the energy crisis the country is facing. According to some Malacanang sources, De la Paz submitted his resignation letter to President Aquino earlier this week, but the news only spread yesterday when De la Paz met with OEA employees to inform them of his decision. De la Paz allegedly told those who attended the meeting he called for, that he is disappointed with the measures the government is undertaking in relation to the energy policy, so he thought it better to resign from his office.

Aquino Rejects Resignation

HK2311103590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino rejected the resignation of Office of Energy Affairs executive director Wenceslao de la Paz. This was announced by Raul Concepcion, chairman of the Task Force on Energy, and was also confirmed by director De la Paz in an interview this morning. The report of his resignation spread after a meeting between government officials involved in energy operations and policies was held yesterday. In an interview this morning, director Wenceslao de la Paz said he thought it was for his own good to return to the private sector because he can no longer stand government life. However, the president reportedly appealed to him to retain his present position because he is needed not only by the government but also by the people.

$5-Billion Marcos Settlement Offer Confirmed

HK2811121990 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government] confirmed a $5-billion settlement offer for the Marcos properties worldwide. The final negotiations are expected to end before 1992. PCGG Chairman David Castro said this represents the total amount being negotiated between the commission and former First Lady Imelda Marcos. According to Castro, the settlement offer was made during his term of office [as heard] by an authorized Marcos trustee.

Meanwhile, the PCGG said the compromise agreement reached with former Ambassador Roberto Benedicto came as a result of a thorough and careful study. The compromise agreement of 1.2 billion pesos between the PCGG and Benedicto has been receiving widespread criticism, and is now at the Antigraft Court.

Basic Guidelines for PC-INP Personnel Issued

HK2911114190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Nov 90

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Major General Cesar Nazareno today ordered the speedy implementation of 10 basic guidelines for the improvement of discipline and delivery of services by police elements in the country. At the same time, the PC chief warned all PC-INP unit commanders that they will be held responsible for their subordinates' misdeeds. The 10 basic guidelines comprise: The proper wearing of uniform; observance of courteousness in carrying out their duties; avoiding bad vices like drinking alcohol and using prohibited drugs; avoiding involvement in any illegal activity; refraining from carrying service firearms while off duty; staying alert in carrying out duties; giving importance to the human rights of each individual; remaining loyal to the Constitution; obeying chain of command rules; and adhering to their role as a peacekeeping force and protector of the people.

According to General Nazareno, all operatives or police elements must obey the guidelines to improve their service to the country. The Constabulary and police leadership drafted the guidelines in reaction to a call by some sectors for the PC-INP to shape up its forces.

Labor Leader Protests Call To Outlaw Movement

HK2811143190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The militant 1 May Movement protested the military's call for it to be outlawed. The military held that the movement caused chaos during workers' strikes. Crispin Beltran, 1 May Movement chairman, stressed the military is causing the country's instability. Beltran thanked the Congress for refusing to investigate the movement's activities. It is recalled that Armed Forces of the Philippines Vice Chief of Staff Major General Rodolfo Biazon requested the passing of a law by Congress against the movement.

Senator Rejects Ban of 1 May Labor Group

HK2911024190 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Senator Ernesto Herrera rejected a proposal to outlaw the KMU [1 May Movement]. Senator Herrera, Senate Committee on Labor chairman, said the KMU is an organization operating behind an ideology which has to be defeated by a stronger ideology and not by force. This is Herrera's reaction to a statement by Major General Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces of the Phlippines deputy chief of staff, seeking a total ban on the KMU, allegedly because it is a front for the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]. Herrera said the KMU is a legal workers' front which is under the National Democratic Front [NDF] and controlled by the Communist Party of the Philippines, which is why the KMU's programs are part of the CPP-NPA [New People's Army]-NDF programs.

KMU Members Hold Rally at U.S. Embassy

HK3011100790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Report by Vic Pambuan from the U.S. Embassy—live]

[Excerpt] Members of the 1 May Movement [KMU] who were permitted by Colonel Reyes to approach Plaza Ferguson in front of the U.S. Embassy are already here, doing nothing except to display their stickers and streamers, which state, "country fight against the oppressive U.S.-Aquino regime." That is the message written in red ink on their blue streamers. At this time, although the rallyists are causing some traffic problems in front of the U.S. Embassy, authorities are trying to quietly and patiently fix the flow of traffic in front of the Embassy.

There are quite a number of KMU members, including members from the League of Filipino Students, led by Nathaniel Santiago and (Robert) de Castro, and speeches are currently going on by means of a microphone and three speakers on top of their jeep. [passage omitted]

Laurel Proposes General Amnesty for Rebels

HK3011063390 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0620 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Report by Ana Soriano from Malacanang—live or recorded]

[Text] Vice-president Salvador Laurel has announced that the National Security Council is set to meet again. According to him, foremost on the agenda would be the granting of a general amnesty for all rebels.

[Begin recording in English] [Laurel] I think we'll be talking about general amnesty next... [changes thought] I'm following on my proposal for a general amnesty.

[Reporter] For all?

[Laurel] For all, but we should start with the military rebels. Because we have to unite our armed forces first before we deal with the other rebels. [end recording]

Rebel Soldiers' 'Terrorism Plan' Disclosed

HK2311015390 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Yesterday, Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Major General Rodolfo Biazon disclosed that the rebel military is targeting about 62 public and private establishments in the metropolis for its new urban terrorism plan. According to Biazon, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansang Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino's [RAM-KSP-Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People] major targets are corporations owned by the government and private sector, seconded by multinational firms. Biazon did not state which establishments are on the list. However, one of them is the big geothermal plant in Luzon. Biazon also confirmed that part of the rebel military's plan is the liquidation of top government and military officials involved in the antirebel campaign.

Communist Rebels Burn Cagayan Relay Station

HK2711052590 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Communist rebels burned a military communications relay station during simultaneous raids in a remote town of northern Luzon. Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos reported this in a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo. According to him, the rebels, led by a certain Colonel Altaba, took one soldier as hostage. They burned the Roma military relay station in Enrile, Cagayan. The rebels also tried to attack a logging company but were intercepted by joint forces of soldiers and militiamen.

CPP Participation in Strikes Said Confirmed

HK2911104190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Nov 90

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] It is certain that elements of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] have been participating in all the militant workers' strikes. This was confirmed by the Constabulary following the arrest of a legitimate member of the revolutionary movement at the height of a national strike in Davao City last night.

In a report sent to PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Major General Cesar Nazareno by Colonel Manuel Salimbangon, commander of Regional Command 11, it was learned that Teofilo Quibal, a NPA [New People's Army] rebel, was arrested by elements of the Bunawan Police Station at a checkpoint which the rebels themselves set up in Panabo, Davao City. The checkpoint was deliberately set up by the rebels to prevent vehicles from entering the city, where a militant workers' strike is being launched. During tactical interrogation, Quibal said he and other comrades were ordered by their leader to support the national strike by preventing vehicles from entering the city, especially passenger buses.

Meanwhile, DZRH News learned that a total of four vehicles, including a passenger bus, were burned by the NPA rebels. A report said the NPA also raided a Philippine Army detachment in Panabo, Davao City, resulting in the killing of a certain Sergeant Aldezar and the taking hostage of four other soldiers, who have not been seen until now.

In this connection, General Nazareno ordered all PC operatives in Davao to be more alert in anticipation of an intensified communist rebel campaign. Nazareno said should there be workers setting up barricades in the city without permits, the authorities have the right to dismantle these to protect and ensure the safety of innocent civilians.

Explosion at Pampanga PC Headquarters Reported

HK2711053190 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A strong explosion was reported in the Pampanga Philippine Constabulary [PC] Command headquarters. One civilian was seriously injured as the place caught fire. Witnesses said that a man riding a motorcycle with plate number CZ3285 lobbed a grenade at the headquarters, which is close to the University of the Philippines. The explosion took place at around 1800 [date not specified] and damaged a jeepney and a Volkswagen owned by a certain Pablo Jimenez. Authorities cannot determine whether the target was Lieutenant Ramsy Ocampo, Pampanga PC chief, or his deputy, Major Jose Gutierrez.

Group Responsible for Attacks Not Determined

HK2711133390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The Armed Forces leadership could not yet determine which of the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces

Movement] or NPA [New People's Army] groups was responsible for the attacks on several relay stations in the country.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa disclosed that many times in the past, the Alex Boncayao Brigade and CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA had been exchanging and issuing each other materials for their terrorist activities. He said there was even an agreement between the two to intensify their bombing operations in Manila. However, General de Villa has not seen any indication of a simultaneous launching of a major assault against the Aquino government by the RAM-SFP [Soldiers of the Filipino People]-CPP-NPA.

Official Says Honasan No Longer RAM Leader

HK2811052990 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] A high-ranking military official disclosed that former colonel Gregorio Honasan is no longer leader of the Reform the Armed Forces of the Philippines Movement [RAM]. During a RAM vote, Honasan was replaced by a top leader, navy commodore Domingo Calajate, former chief of the Armed Forces' Logistics Command. The official also said that there was a serious power struggle in RAM, and that Honasan was forced to back out and give the leadership to Calajate's group. Calajate is said to be in charge of rightist operations, including attacks and bombings on government installations.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said that there are strong leads indicating that Calajate is involved in the bombings in Metro Manila, and that they are being carried out by a group headed by Philippine Constabulary colonel Billy Bibit.

Rebel Soldier Names Comrade in Bomb Incident

HK2611053590 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Captured rebel soldier former Navy Seaman First Class Fernando Guino-o identified a certain Alex Gilbert who helped him plant the bomb in the car park of Philippine Plaza hotel's exit driveway on 13 July. Luckily the bomb did not explode. Guino-o confirmed that Gilbert was also involved in the explosion incident at the Board of Investment office and Republic Flour Mills last August. Based on Guino-o's testimony, Captain Diosdado Valeroso led the rightist rebels when they attacked the Manila City jail last April and rescued Philippine Constabulary Major Billy Bibit. Meanwhile, Valeroso is one of the 18 suspected military rebels arrested since last September.

Communist Rebels Burn Buses in Davao 27 Nov

HK2711112190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 Nov 90

[By Ricky Jimenez, Radyo ng Bayan, Davao]

[Text] CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] rebels burned six buses between Panabon, Davao del Norte and Davao City at dawn today. The six buses consisted of a Rio Sil bus on the Davao-Tagum route; a 40-foot van; two six-wheel trucks; a truck; and a tanker. Reports reaching the Radyo ng Bayan-Davao stated there were people taken hostage by the rebels, but their identities have not yet been confirmed. The burning of the buses at dawn came one day before the planned two-day national strike in Mindanao by the militant KMU [1 May Movement].

De Villa Claims Communist Insurgency Waning

HK3011020590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[By Janet Rodrigo]

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa said that the communist movement in the country was quickly being disbanded. In an interview with foreign correspondents at the Hotel Ramada, General de Villa explained that the communist movement had weakened on their guerrilla front and influence on civilians. According to De Villa, total membership of the entire CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] had decreased by more than 4,000 during the latter part of 1988. Here is General de Villa's pronouncement.

[Begin recording in English] So I say here with full confidence that the communist insurgency problem in the Philippines is going down and we will soon see, in the next few years, a very, very much reduced insurgency threat from the CPP and its armed component, the NPA. [end recording]

Thailand

Minister Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Special Envoy

BK2911042590 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The special envoy of Kuwaiti Amir, Yahya Fahd al-Sumit, called on Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan to solicit the Thai Government's support to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. The visit takes place as the UN Security Council is planning some new action against Iraq.

The Kuwaiti envoy says if Iraq could not be forced to leave Kuwait peacefully, a military action is called for. Kuwait is ready to accept UN military action to drive out Iraqi forces because prolonging the current situation is causing severe damage to Kuwait.

[Begin Yahya recording in progress in English] ... It has to be determination by using force if necessary. It has to be determination of setting up a deadline. And, by God, if by that time the man does not answer the words which he has to pay for it. [sentence as heard] He has to pay for it. [end recording]

The United Nations will announce its latest action on the Kuwait problem after its meeting on 29 November, and the trend is that it will allow use of force to deal with the Iraqi invasion. The United States has set 1 January as the deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, while some countries feel the deadline should be extended to 15 January. But every side feels that Iraq will withdraw its forces only if the United Nations endorses use of force and sets a deadline.

The Thai foreign minister assured that Thailand respects the UN resolutions on Kuwait, because Thailand itself has suffered a great deal from the conflict. The economic sanctions against Iraq have deprived Thailand of about eight billion baht in trade with Iraq and Kuwait and about one billion baht annually in wages for Thai workers to those countries. The Kuwaiti envoy says if Kuwait regains independence it will invest in oil business in Thailand and compensate for Thai trade and labor losses.

Hun Sen Crticized for Rejecting UN Framework

BK3011111190 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Commentary: "The Best Thing To Do Is To Improve the Well-being of the Cambodian People"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: On 24 November, Hun Sen, leader of the Phnom Penh regime, made a speech in Battambang, the second largest city in northeastern Cambodia. In the speech, he totally rejected any plan to dissolve the Phnom Penh regime, and vowed that its political and military status would be maintained until elections are held. He also warned that any plan for a peace settlement in Cambodia would meet with failure if it calls for the dissolution of the Phnom Penh regime. Hun Sen wanted the Supreme National Council, set up in September as a result of the meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, to symbolize Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and unity during the transitional period pending elections. Based on the principle that the internal affairs of Cambodia must be decided by the Cambodian people, the Phnom Penh regime will not dissolve a single village-level leadership as that would be suicide and tantamount to paving the way for the Pol Pot regime to return to power in Cambodia.

Dear listeners: Judging from Hun Sen's statement, we must say that he has thus rejected the documents outlining the framework for resolving the Cambodian problem adopted at the sixth meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, held in New York on 27-28 August. The resolution calls for the United Nations to play a temporary role in administrative and military affairs in Cambodia prior to the elections, and to facilitate holding free and fair elections there. This will create a neutral political atmosphere for the elections. No faction should have an advantage over or be at a disadvantage to the others. The elections should be held in a genuinely fair and effective manner so that Cambodia will have an assembly that can draft and approve a constitution. This assembly would be transformed into a lesgislative assembly later on. [passage omitted]

Cambodia is in a state of crisis at present. After Vietnam announced in September 1989 that it would withdraw its troops from Cambodia, and the Soviet Union announced it would cut assistance, inflation soared drastically. The value of the riel has dropped alarmingly. The currency used to be valued at 190 riels to one U.S. dollar on the black market but it has now dropped to 560 riels to the dollar. Rice which cost around 30 riels per kilo in early 1990, has now reached 90 riels per kilo. The price of fuel oil, which used to be 90 riels per litre, is now at 500 riels per litre due to the Persian Gulf crisis and disturbances in the Soviet Union which have delayed the shipment of oil to Phnom Penh.

The fighting has been dragging on for years. It is generally believed that there would be a shortage of about 300,000 tons of rice in 1991 as a result of heavy fighting in the northwestern part of the country during 1989 and in the central region in June-July this year. The fighting forced about 120,000 to 150,000 farmers in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey to leave their villages.

Dear listeners: The situation in Cambodia is at crisis level now. The leaders of the various Cambodian factions should try to solve the problems instead of stubbornly persisting in asserting their demands and procuring private gains without taking into account national interests and the plight of the Cambodian people. Other countries are trying to stimulate cooperation in order to promote economic stability and strength, but the Phnom Penh leaders try to stick to their old position for the sake of their own interests and those of their colleagues. We would like to call on the leaders of all Cambodian factions to turn to each other in cooperation in order to once and for all end the internal conflicts of Cambodia. It is time to turn attention toward the well-being of the Cambodian people. This should be the best solution for them.

Khmer Rouge Stronghold Said 'Likely To Fall'

BK3011062190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 3

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge's stronghold of Pailin in western Cambodia is likely to fall to government troops because of the latter's superiority in numbers and logistic supplies, a senior Thai military officer said yesterday.

The Phnom Penh troops have reportedly been locked in fierce fighting with Khmer Rouge guerrillas defending the strategic border town since last weekend.

The town, 12 kms east of the Thai border at Ban Phakhat of Chantaburi Province, is rich in gem stones.

Rear-Admiral Aram Suthichat, the chief of staff of the Chantaburi-Trat Task Force, said there were reports that the government in Phnom Penh had recently dispatched a reinforcement of up to 7,000 soldiers from Battambang Province to the area. The forces were seen heading west through Phum Kamping Puoy and Phum Phnum Sampeou on Route No 10 to Pailin, about 80 kms away.

The reinforcements, comprising 4,000 Cambodian troops and the rest of "unknown origin", was supported by large number of heavy weapons, Aram said.

Lt Gen Narudon Detpradiyut, the Supreme Command's spokesman, said the concentration of government troops in Pailin was the heaviest since the government lost the town to the Khmer Rouge guerrillas last October.

"Pailin is likely to fall to the Phnom Penh troops if the government can concentrate such a large force in attack against the town," he said.

But he added that the government would eventually be put in a difficult position in defending the town against Khmer Rouge harassment.

Narudon also predicted that there would be heavy fighting between the government troops and resistance guerrillas throughout Cambodia during the next two months.

"Every indication points to an all-out showdown," he said, citing current reports of heavy troop manouevring by both the government and the resistance and the stalemate in peace talks.

There were reports of active troop movements on the Phnom Penh side around several strategic towns straddling Route No 69 leading from Sisophon northward to the Thai border in Surin Province, said Narudon.

The potential targets of Phnom Penh attacks in the area include Svay Chek, Phum Trea and Thmar Puok which are held by troops loyal to former Premier Son Sann, he added.

Another 150 Vietnamese troops were also dispatched from Kampong Cham Province to Phum Svay north of Sisophon in order to reinforce the offensive strength of government troops, he said.

The spokesman insisted that even though the sponsors of the 11-year civil war in Cambodia, including the Soviet Union and China, had pledged to cease supplying arms to factions in the war-torn country, strict implementation of the promises had yet to be observed.

"It is apparent that all the Cambodian leaders are choosing the battleground instead of the negotiating table to sort out their differences," he said.

Force To Starve Cambodian Rebels Out of Hiding

BK3011021590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] Prachin Buri—The joint military, police and civilian force kept up surveillance of Khao Lon and Khao Sakaekong for the fourth day for Cambodian bandits who robbed two ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] ambulances and fired on two trucks.

"We will keep the force here until they starve and have to come out," said Pol Col Seksan Unsamran, commander of the Border Patrol Police 12. Pol Col Seksan said units had been posted at various spots where the bandits were most likely to emerge from hiding.

Also, four V-150 armoured vehicles patrolled the route between Ta Phraya and Lahan Sai District of neighbouring Buri Ram Province. Khao Lon and Khao Sakaekong are situated near Khao Ban That between Watthana Nakhon District and Ta Phraya District.

"The bandits will not be allowed to escape across the border into Cambodia. We will take drastic action against them to prevent them from causing any further trouble to people along the border," said Pol Col Seksan.

Government officials continued to hand out weapons to villagers yesterday as at least 12 villages out of about 60 in Ta Phraya District prepared for trouble from Cambodian bandits.

Thaweesak Sisombun, 35, a 10-wheel truck driver who frequently uses the Ta Phraya-Lahan Sai route, said he felt reassured to see patrols in the area. "But I was not sure who was who when I saw the checkpoint last night. For a moment, I thought the men there were bandits instead of soldiers and policemen. I had to slow down and look carefully," he said.

Meanwhile, villagers in Ban Nong Mang, about 30 kilometres north of Aranyaprathet, yesterday reported to local authorities that 14 armed Cambodians, believed to be bandits, were seen about five kilometres inside Thai territory. Subin Kitthon, assistant district officer for defence at Ta Phraya District, said villagers had reported to his office after being chased from their fields by the bandits.

Villagers reported they were wearing fatigues and were heavily armed with RPGs, AK-47 and M-16 assault rifles and hand grenades.

A joint force of 24 men were later sent to the village, but only found traces of food believed to have been left behind by the Cambodians. A blockade was also set up on the route between the village and Khao I-Dang holding centre, but no arrests were made.

The Cambodians were believed to have managed to cross the border back into Cambodia at Prasat Salok Kok in Ban Thap Siam. Mr Subin said a group of Cambodians, believed to be the same who illegally entered the country earlier in the morning, had crossed back into Thai territory to prepare for robberies.

Motives in Cambodian Peace Efforts Discussed

BK3011035390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the Rubric "Cambodian Diary," entitled "The Importance of Being Earnest"]

[Text] In the remarkably frank speech he delivered in Battambang (reported by Radio Phnom Penh on November 25) Mr Hun Sen, who certainly reflects the position of the politburo of the ruling People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK), explained that the Phnom Penh government was the legitimate government of Cambodia. That it was out of the question to allow the United Nations Transitional Administration of Cambodia (UNTAC) to dismantle or even rule the country during the interim period. That the role of the Supreme National Council "is not that of a government." That the key to a political solution of the Cambodian problem is "not power sharing before elections."

"We agree to let the United Nations organise and supervise elections," said Mr Hun Sen. "This is a lot and too much already... We will not agree to what is decided in Paris. Cambodian affairs belong to Cambodians."

This apparently was the message delivered by Foreign Minister Hor Namhong to Mr Ali Alatas in Hanoi, and it certainly failed to cheer the Indonesians. Mr Hun Sen also renewed Phnom Penh's refusal to allow any kind of International Peace-Keeping Force in the country... But he pleaded in favour of a ceasefire and free elections.

As the control of the ruling party increases in Cambodia, as does the Khmer Rouge presence and pressures (not directly related to the amount of visible fighting), a score of questions are raised.

Can the Perm Five convince the four factions to work together and accept further compromises? Are the five members of the Perm Five equally determined to a solution that at this stage involves a strong foreign presence in Cambodia? How much does China wish to see the end of the Communist Party (or parties) in Cambodia. Before Tiananmen, Chinese leaders often told Prince Sihanouk that Cambodia, after a political settlement, should not be communist. Is that still the conviction of the present leadership in Beijing?

What about Hanoi? Is the politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, a party that itself is going through great tribulation, ready to welcome a pluralistic Cambodia (the most likely result of free and fair elections, if such a thing is possible in the near future in Cambodia)?

A few months ago, in Phnom Penh a few sources where wondering if some some Khmer Rouge and at least a few but important members of the PRPK would not find a common ground in ultra-nationalism coloured with a dose of old-fashioned Marxism-Leninism. It would open the way for a strictly "Khmer" solution, avoiding at least direct "foreign interferences." And both Hanoi and Peking could reasonably imagine they would be able to keep some control over Cambodian political life.

While communism is probably finished in Europe as a form of government the same is not true in Asia. In countries like China, Cambodia or Laos (unlike vietnam) the ideological content of the doctrine is probably of secondary importance.

The party is first of all a new instrument of (traditional/feudal?) power. The party may talk about equality but few regimes have maintained such separation and hierarchy between the "broad masses" of the people and the leadership as such parties have done.

Whatever the problems of democratic life in Thailand, Malaysia or the Philippines, there is little mystery about the leaders, and privileges are first of all a matter of money. And communications do exist. These are countries and political regimes with relatively few secrets.

The communist revolutions may have changed the personnel in the ruling class, but very little of its old practices. Why would such a class give up power?

But it is also quite possible that the Perm Five and Vietnam and the four factions and everybody else understands there is little to gain from a protracted war or a status quo. And that they will try their very best to convince each Khmer faction the time has come to talk and give peace a chance.

The recent history of Cambodia is a history of lost opportunities. No side is innocent. But not much will be achieved by looking back. Can Cambodian leaders see beyond their own interest and worry about the life of the men and women they claim to represent? The Cambodian people certainly would be grateful.

The Perm Five still speak with one voice. Prince Sihanouk has invited the four Cambodian factions to Paris for another round of talks. China claims it does not deliver arms to the resistance any more. It looks like peace is round the corner.

But Mr Hun Sen says he does not believe Beijing. The ruling party in Phnom Penh is taking an increasingly hard line. Fighting continues. Khmer Rouge radio says the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) is about to take over Siem Reap, and warns the inhabitants of Kompong Thom, further east on Highway 6, to flee the city to avoid being caught in the conflict. Peace seems to be very far away.

The announcement on November 22 by Mr Li Zhaoxing of the Chinese Foreign Ministry that his country had stopped giving military assistance to the resistance, especially to the Khmer Rouge, is probably the most important news of the recent weeks. At least if it is really the case.

More and more, Chinese officials tell visitors that the time has come for politics not battles, that the days of war in Cambodia are over. It is yet too early to ascertain the reality of the end of military aid from Beijing. Opinions are divided, to say the least.

Mr Hun Sen, speaking last week at a rally in Battambang, was very clear. "It is true," he said, "that yesterday we received news saying that China has stopped military aid to Pol Pot. However, I would like to stress that we can not believe this."

Mr Hun Sen is certainly not the only skeptical person. I have not yet met anyone absolutely convinced that China has indeed taken such radical action.

Here are a few opinions from among those one would define as "well-informed sources": No, we don't believe it, we have no evidence. Maybe. It is not impossible, but it needs to be qualified, just as the Soviets did in early 1990.

The USSR first claimed it had terminated its military assistance to Phnom Penh. Then, faced with evidence of deliveries, expained that there was no new "contracts" but that some equipment was still supplied as part of "old agreements."

The same could be true with regard to Chinese assistance.

Others still are inclined to say that since the Khmer Rouge have received so much recently, there is little need for further deliveries. The Khmer Rouge have plenty of stock, caches and money, some sources said. "They make fresh money every day from commercial operations along the Thai-Cambodian border. With money you can buy anything."

The Chinese official who revealed Beijing's decision declared that supplies had been stopped after the adoption of the Perm Five document by the United Nations Security Council.

So the tanks, if tanks there are (again, I could not find one single reliable source who would confirm the delivery of Chinese tanks to the NADK, nor did I find anyone who would absolutely deny the story. China for its part denied it sent artillery to anyone) and the artillery which the Khmer Rouge allegedly received were delivered—in theory—before the adoption of the Perm Five plan by the Security Council. Not impossible, indeed.

But even if Beijing and other suppliers of military assistance to the Khmer factions do put an end to their assistance, it does not automatically mean an end to the conflict. Every faction can last a while, the Khmer Rouge probably longer than anyone else.

Only a political agreement can stop the war. But is a political agreement possible? And of what kind of agreement are we talking about?

Daily Urges Cambodian Factions To Pursue Peace

BK3011033590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Khmer Factions Must Get Serious"]

[Text] The tragedy of Cambodia continues, and it becomes ever clearer why. Certainly the people of that suffering nation want peace. Certainly Cambodia's many friends have placed enormous energy and resources into the search for peace. Certainly the world has ached for a resolution to the war in one of its gentlest corners for two decades. Peace in Cambodia, it has become clear, remains as elusive as ever because the nation's own politicians refuse to get serious and buckle down to the only issue which truly matters in their country.

For the past week and more in Paris, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have met for the fifth time this year to establish some guidelines for these unwilling Cambodian political leaders. The United States, China, Soviet Union, Britain and France all have the interest of Cambodians at heart. Though they disagree on some details, members of this group admit that the only chance for a Cambodian settlement is a pact among Cambodian factions to stop shooting and start politicking.

Two months ago, it appeared as if the Khmer Rouge, Heng Samrin, Sihanouk and Son Sann groups agreed with this. After enormous bouts of persuasion, the leaders of these factions met in Tokyo, Jakarta and, finally, Bangkok. The purpose of these meetings was to form what everyone agreed to call a Supreme National Council for Cambodia. This body, proposed to and sanctioned by the UN Security Council, would be a coalition of the four political factions. We say "would be" because, although this body officially exists, it has done no work, has been given no authority and could not even agree on its leadership.

The reason for this sorry state of affairs is the stubbornness of the faction leaders. Apparently, to be seen to compromise is a sign of weakness in Cambodian politics. Or is it simply a sign of political greed and personal ambition? The fact is that no single faction is able to exert clear authority over the country and there are exactly two options open to Cambodia: compromise or continuation of war. For far too long, the Cambodian people have suffered because their leaders have chosen the second course. None of them has been willing, in the end, to leave the choice to the people.

This deplorable situation can be ended, of course, by imposition of outside force upon those blocking peace. An arms moratorium by the foreign powers to cut off weapon supplies to all the conflicting Khmer factions has been discussed before and now seems an ever more attractive proposition. Though the rival factions have separately built up their own stockpiles, the war in Cambodia could gradually wither away over time in the absence of foreign arms. Other methods lie at hand, up to and including introduction of a United Nations military force to separate the warring armies once and for all. This would include planting a government in Phnom Penh under UN sanction.

This is an idea with appeal to few people or nations. The future of any country, large or small, belongs to the citizens of that country, and to no one else. Cambodia's many friends, Thailand certainly among them, have consistently shied away from even discussing such a drastic step as imposition of a settlement of the Cambodian war. And rightly so, at least so far. But trust in the ability of the four factions to reach a compromise peace agreement is waning. Leaders squabble over matters which are clearly unimportant to the Cambodian people, and issues which clearly affect only "the face" of specific leaders.

No faction can be immune to this criticism. Leaders of all four groups have failed to impress with statesmanship or sacrifice. Their inability to come to agreement on peace after years of discussion is a powerful argument supporting charges of incompetence, selfishness and lack of feeling for their suffering compatriots in the towns and rice fields. The time, indeed, may come when Cambodia's friends will have to act in order to force faction leaders to accept what they should have agreed to themselves long ago: that their country needs peace immediately. Even today, the deaths of innocents can be laid to the implacable Phnom Penh government and resistance leaders who refuse to compromise and thereby prolong the misery of the people they claim to represent.

Succession of Singapore Premiership Analyzed

BK2811030390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 p A8

[Editorial: "No Succession in Singapore"]

[Text] After 31 years of having had a firm grip over the island-nation of Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew formally steps aside today to make way for Goh Chok Tong, a mild-mannered bureaucrat, who is essentially a conservative pragmatist. Though Goh promises to make Singapore a "kinder and gentler" society in the relentless pursuit of excellence, his rise to premiership was "engineered" by Lee whose views and vision will continue to dominate the country of 2.4 million.

Political power has an intoxicating attraction, and Lee has yet to demonstrate his willingness to let go completely. Though he will no longer be prime minister, Lee however has sought to institutionalize his political dominance within a new office of executive president with wide reserve powers including a role in internal security. Lee is widely expected to be elected the first executive president after the term of President Wee Kim Wee, an appointed ceremonial head of state, expires in 1992.

In a speech in August 1988, Lee warned his countrymen: "Even from my sick bed, even if you are going to lower me into the grave and I feel that something is wrong, I'll get up. Those who believe that when I have left the government as prime minister, that I've gone into permanent retirement, really should have their heads examined!" And he really meant it.

Lee's ruthlessness in silencing dissent knows no bounds. His campaign against dissent victimized a variety of institutions, including the Catholic Church, the Singapore Law Society, the National University, and the foreign media that cover Singapore which distribute their publications in Singapore. He has used laws dating from colonial times, such as the Internal Security Act (ISA) and the Societies Act, against critics and dissidents. He has also amended some of these laws, as in the case of the ISA and the newspaper and Printing Presses Act, to increase government power to exercise discretion in enforcing them more effectively.

On the other hand, mild-mannered Goh, still in his 40s, is seen by many as lacking the necessary traits to fill Lee's shoes. He's not one of nature's hard men and clearly is not as ruthless as Lee in silencing dissent and training Singaporeans to do what is "correct," including flushing public toilets and quitting the tobacco habit.

Certain quarters have suggested that the reason why the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) arrested its electoral decline in 1988 was the popular understanding that Goh was Lee's designated successor. Some, however, question how long Goh will stay in power, given the rapid rise and high profile of Lee's elder son, Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong (or BG [Brigadier General] Lee).

There is no doubt that BG Lee is a prime minister-in-waiting, a fact that Goh himself must know but has tried to play down by saying that he doesn't intend to be a mere "seat warmer" for anyone.

The perpetuation of the "Lee dynasty" was guaranteed in February 1989, when BG Lee was elected to the newly created post of second assistant secretary-general of the PAP. His father will continue to be secretary-general of the ruling party.

With BG Lee in such a powerful post, most Singaporeans believe that it is only a matter of time before the younger Lee replaces Goh. Though there are two deputy prime ministers of equal rank, Ong Teng Cheong and BG Lee, the latter has been given the political advantage by being nominated as acting-prime minister in the event Goh is absent from the country.

Goh will have to get used to BG Lee breathing down his neck with his father, officially a senior minister without portfoilo, also at his elbow. This is the fate Goh will be resigned to until the younger Lee is ready to take over.

With Lee's inability to let go politically, many Singaporeans will continue to try to migrate from the island-nation to get away from the leaders who have the "government-knows-best" attitude. Confined to an area of only about 1,000 square kilometres (about two-thirds the size of metropolis Bangkok), Singaporeans naturally feel they are always under the watchful eye of the government. Leaving for resettlement in other countries is therefore one of their "pragmatic" solutions

A large number of the migrants from Singapore are professionals who, despite political stability and prosperity in their homeland, suffered from political alienation. They have had little or no emotional attachment to the island state where there is room only for the PAP which Lee has created to rule with social values prescribed chiefly by Lee himself.

Lee Kuan Yew's success in building Singapore and his political dominance during the last three decades is a world phenomenon. So proud of his own achievement but so distrustful of the younger generations that Lee is unable to let go his power even after his resignation from the premiership.

As always, Lee knows what is best for Singapore. He personally designed the succession so that Goh will be just the interim to either his own return to power as the executive president, or to a Lee II administration of his son, BG Lee.

Lee's 'Major Achievements' Noted

BK2811023190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] One of the most extraordinary of Asian politicians officially steps aside today, leaving behind a record which few can equal. Lee Kuan Yew, hair greyed by 31 years in his island republic's premiership, formally hands over power to a new generation of Singaporeans. Of course, Mr Lee hand-picked his successor nearly a decade ago. And just in case of a bad decision, Mr Lee will be a member of the government for some time to come in his new capacity as a "senior minister", according to Goh Chok Tong, his trusted replacement. The first legacy of Mr Lee's long premiership, then, is an iron-clad guarantee against quick changes of any kind. He usually has managed to make events turn to his method. The "new generation" will thus rule like the old for the present because Mr Lee, according to the Singapore STRAITS TIMES, will ensure that "what he has achieved for the country over the past 31 years will be further consolidated".

This most extraordinary man has been a politician for life and a prime minister for longer than any other living leader. A firebrand in his school days and early Singapore politics, Mr Lee has long been seen as one of the more conservative of world leaders. His final, major move on the international front was an agreement with the United States to allow use of Singapore bases and facilities by the American military. His hard-line stance on the invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam made Singapore's voice an important one at the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement.

But of course his major achievements have not been in the realm of diplomacy. Mr Lee will be remembered by most for the simple fact of before-and-after comparison. [That] he became prime minister in the Singapore of the 1950s is an example of what hard work, sacrifice and attention to detail can provide. True, it is over-regulated, but trade is only one of many activities in the island, and already a member of the affluent club of Asian NICs, [Newly Industrializing Countries] Singapore is expected to reach developed country status in nine years' time. It has special characteristics which made it possible for this achievement, but economic prosperity was never inevitable. Mr Lee is the man who made it happen, but at a price.

That price was intolerance of anyone or anything perceived to be standing in his way or his vision of what Singapore and Singaporeans represnted. Independent MPs, owing no allegiance to Mr Lee's ruling People's Action Party were mercilessly hounded, the foreign Press persecuted, even prosecuted and reporters made unwelcome. The once-feisty local Press was tamed to the point of subservience and Singapore attained the reputation of being as much an Orwellian state of mind as a republic. This state of mind reflected a sterile, rigidly controlled society where democracy existed in name only and which was watched over by politicians and a Press obsessed by spotlessly clean toilets, the absence of spitting, smoking or men with long hair and encouragement of a policy right out of the pages of science fiction of trying to genetically pair off the cream of the intelligentsia in marriage, supposedly to produce child prodigies.

Although not universally popular and prone to excesses, Mr Lee's place in history is assured by the amazing success of the country he has led for nearly three generations. No Singaporean today lacks shelter or basic tools of survival. Mr Lee's carefully laid plans for housing blocks may, as some critics have charged, have brought soullessness to Singapore. But they also have ensured that people no longer die in the streets of hunger.

Singapore and Thailand have diverged often in the past—not least on the Thai consternation over perceived Singapore hypocrisy in conducting a brisk private trade with Vietnam on the back of harsh official rhetoric—but Thais have developed a measure of respect for Mr Lee. This respect has outlasted the arguments of friends, such as the unnecessary diplomatic strains last year when Singapore officials were about to cane a Thai on an illegal visa charge. Mr Lee and Singapore have shown what is possible in given circumstances. Through even the worst disagreements, Thailand and Singapore have remained friends.

Southeast Asia will seem a far different place without the direcet leadership and influence of Mr Lee. His passing of power to Mr Goh is in the best tradition of peaceful change and reflects a commitment to the future which lesser leaders often fail to show and would do well to study.

Supreme Commander Receives Burmese General

BK2911035590 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Chit Swe, Burmese minister of agriculture and forestry, called on Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong this afternoon on the occasion of his visit to Thailand to strengthen good relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries. The Thai supreme commander welcomed the visitor, and they exchanged views on issues of mutual concern.

Japanese 'Cool' to Indochina Development Plan

BK3011031990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 3

[By Oranut Anusaksathian]

[Text] Chiang Mai—Japanese investors have given a cool response to an invitation extended by Thai businessmen for them to jointly exploit natural resources, cheap labour and huge market potentials in the Indochinese countries and Burma.

Koshiro Suganuma, counsellor of Nisho Iwai Corp, one of five big Japanese trading houses representing the powerful business group the Keidanren at annual consultation of Thailand-Japan Joint Trade and Economic Committee, did not express much enthusiasm despite the great trading potentials described by the Thai delegate.

The reaction was contrary to the aggression [as published] of Japanese businesses in exploring new markets. Many Japanese business firms, including Tomen Corp and Mitsubishi Corp, are reportedly applying to open their office in Vietnam because of the sharp increase in trade between the two countries.

In restructuring the ailing economies of Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Burma, Suganuma said regional and international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank should take the lead.

The response did not come as a surprise to the Thai delegate in a way. Many know all too well that several Japanese firms have entered Laos, Vietnam and Burma to conduct businesses mostly involving the trading of natural resources.

The Thai private sector, however, tried hard to convince the Japanese counterpart that the opportunities exist there and that Thailand can serve as a spring board into Indochinese markets.

Suganuma said the private sector should restrict its role to indirect support in these countries.

With population of 170 million and larger than Thailand in size with their combined natural resources richer than this country, there are a lot of opportunities in these countries to be exploited, said Dr Nimit Nonthapunthawat, senior vice president of Bangkok Bank.

Suganuma only pointed out that the Japanese could help in establishing export oriented industries which require low level technology such as textiles in those countries in return for foreign currencies which can be used in buying consumer products from Thailand and Japan.

Nimit gave little support in investing in these countries in the absence of adequate and effective laws and regulations governing foreign investors. He instead saw benefits in trade and exchange of goods.

Pramuan Threatens To Resign Over Interest Rate

BK2911154790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Pramuan Saphawasu, who is also a deputy leader of the Chat Thai Party, admitted to reporters that he really planned to resign from the cabinet. He has already informed the prime minister who is the Chat Thai Party's leader, but the prime minister told him to cool down first and to bring up the matter with him later on.

Pramuan said that he wanted to resign partly because he is not happy over the fact that he had not been informed in advance about the increase in the lending rate ceiling despite the fact that he had been assigned to oversee this matter. The other 40 cabinet members also had not been informed of the decision in advance. Pramuan said that any government decision which involves the majority of the people should be discussed in the cabinet first in order to find out what effects it might have on the people, the farmers, and civil servants, and also to ascertain if the decision is appropriate and sound.

Pramuan said that it is very seldom that the lending rate ceiling is raised by 2.5 percentage points because that is very high. However, he admitted that it is the best way to solve the current problem. Yet, by etiquette, he said those in charge of carrying out the decision should have brought the issue to the attention of the council of economic ministers first for a thorough study. He did not deny that the minister in question may have the knowledge and ability to take such action deemed necessary, but others in the same boat should be given a chance to voice their opinion especially when the matter concerns a large majority of the people.

Pramuan Saphawasu, deputy prime minister and also deputy leader of the Chat Thai Party, finally said that he will definitely go ahead with his plan to resign. He will seek another meeting with the prime minister.

Chatchai Plans To Reshuffle Cabinet Again

BK3011020990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said last night he would reshuffle the Cabinet now that some Chat Thai ministers had offered to resign to give him a free hand to form the new lineup.

Looking happy with the reports about the offer, Chatchai told reporters that he would shake up the Cabinet as soon as possible but added that he needed time to do so. "What else can I do but reshuffle it now that they (Chat Thai ministers) publicly said so?" the premier said, referring to public statements by Deputy Premier Pramuan Saphawasu and Deputy Interior Minister Sano Thianthong yesterday that they would resign if the premier wanted a reshuffle.

Chatchai said that he would have to wait for reactions from coalition partners before acting on the proposed reshuffle.

Asked whether he would resign, Chatchai said: "Anything is fine with me. It depends on the majority view." He said that he was more concerned about economic issues than political problems. "Our country is now at a turning point on the economic front," he said at a party to mark Pramuan's birthday at the Dusit Thani Hotel last night.

Asking for time to reshuffle it, Chatchai turned to Pramuan, who was standing beside him during the interview, and said: "You understand it?" Pramuan nodded in agreement.

The deputy premier said his offer to resign was partly aimed at giving the premier a free hand to reshuffle the Cabinet and added that it was related to his position on the government's financial policy. He did not elaborate. He denied he wanted to recapture the finance portfolio.

Pramuan clashed with Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun, on the latter's decision to increase the lending interest rate by 2.5 per cent.

Following rumours Wednesday afternoon that seven to eight Chat Thai ministers would resign, Deputy Interior Minister Sano said yesterday that the story was true. Sources close to the premier also confirmed it and identified them as Deputy Premier Pramuan, Industry Minister Praman Adireksan, PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi, PM's Office Minister Prasong Bunphong, PM's Office Minister Bun-ua Prasoetsuwan, Justice Minister Chamrat Mangkhalarat, University Affairs Minister Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri and Deputy Interior Minister Sano.

A military source said the story was a trial balloon to foster the expectation that a reshuffle was imminent and to renew the military's hopes that perhaps the premeir would drop Pol Capt Chaloem Yubamrung this time around. He said the military believes that Premier Chatchai was behind the floating of the trial balloon to test reactions from various Chat Thai factions and the military.

Asked about the report, Chatchai at first expressed surprise last night: "Really, I just now heard of it from you".

The sources close to the premier said they saw the resignation offer as a gesture of support for the premier, who is beset with growing political woes, particularly the standoff with the military in connection with their demand for the removal of controversial Pol Capt Chaloem Yubamrung from the Cabinet.

The move by the group of MPs was also seen as a push for Chatchai to remove Banhan from the powerful post of interior minister, said the sources who added that Banhan was reportedly unhappy with the move when he learned of it.

Prime Minister Chatchai apparently has not made up his mind on the gesture by the ministers, the sources said. "He regards it as one of the options (to clear the political cloud caused by a standoff between the premier and the military)," said one source who asked not to be named.

Sano, who is also deputy leader, caused the furore yesterday in an interview, claiming that the Chat Thai ministers had called on the premier Wednesday night.

He said the Chat Thai ministers were [in] sympathy with the premier's growing political woes and offered their resignation to give the premier a free hand in shaking up the Cabinet.

Most of the eight Cabinet members had told the premier in October that he should reshuffle the Cabinet by bringing in the opposition Solidarity Party and replace Banhan with either Praman, Kon or Chatchai himself.

"The premier can no longer say 'no problem,'" Sano told reporters. He denied that the group was pressuring Chatchai to reshuffle the Cabinet.

"It is absolutely up to the premier to decide whether and when to reshuffle the Cabinet. But if and when he wants to do it, we will be ready to cooperate with him. Chat Thai ministers never cling to their seats," said the deputy party leader.

The political situation is fragile and the last two Cabinet reshuffles had failed to clear the air, he said. Sano refused to say how the premier reacted to their proposal.

Sunthon Warns on Involving King in Politics

BK3011014190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 1

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday issued a vague warning against any attempt to involve His Majesty the King in politics. "Armed forces leaders will do everything we can to protect the institution of the royalty," he said.

Sunthon did not name names in his statement, made at a dinner party for about 100 royal guards at the headquarters of the First Army Division Royal Guards. But the remark came a week after Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan sought an audience with His Majesty before effecting a Cabinet reshuffle in which the military's arch-rival Chaloem Yubamrung was moved rather than ousted from the government.

Chatchai early this month pledged to drop Chaloem from his Cabinet position following the minister's conflict with the military over its controversial seizure of a mobile broadcasting radio station belonging to the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand [MCOT].

Before the Cabinet shake-up, Chaloem, then a minister atached to the PM's [Prime Minister's] office, oversaw MCOT. He infuriated the military by his defiant criticism against Sunthon.

The following day after his audience with His Majesty, the new Cabinet line-up was announced, moving Chaloem to a deputy education minister's post. Thus, the prime minister was seen as trying to appear that he had received approval to have Chaloem stay put.

The premier was earlier charged by the Opposition with trying to involve His Majesty in politics by presenting the controversial mobile station to him after the military would not return it to the government.

The retention of Chaloem in the Cabinet led to a boycott by military leaders of their weekly breakfast with the premier. Chatchai said the top brass were "being petulant" in staging the boycott. "We don't act petulant. We either love, hate or like," said Army chief Gen Sunchinda Khraprayun, who also attended the party.

At the same talk yesterday, a reporter noted that Suchinda had a scratch on the right side of his face. The army chief joked that his wife had scratched him for "allowing myself to be deceived by the premier".

Communists Said Undermining Military, Monarchy

BK3011022990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] The Army yesterday claimed that sympathizers of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] were actively seeking to cause splits in the military establishment and the nation.

Spokesman Narudon Detpradiyut did not name the sympathizers, saying that he was reluctant to answer questions on the subject for fear that the army would be accused of trying to revive the spectre of communism. "I made the comment just because you asked me," he said.

Naruedon said those in authority must be careful about the penetration by these sympathizers of the CPT who were trying to undermine all national institutes, including the monarchy.

Vietnam

Quantas To Open Service to Ho Chi Minh City

BK3011083690 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 30—The Vietnam Civil Aviation Corporation and the Qantas Royal Airlines of Australia last week agreed to open a direct airline from Sydney and Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City as from late this December.

Under the plan, Qantas will organize a monthly flight to Ho Chi Minh City by its Boeing 767. The first flight is expected to take place on December 22.

Last year, 7,000 tourists came to Vietnam from Australia including almost 2,000 overseas Vietnamese returning to the homeland for the Lunar New Year festival.

UN Mission Calls For Dialogue, Cooperation

BK2911153590 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Many representatives at the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, including Vietnam pointed to the importance of strengthening dialogue and cooperation among countries in the world for development, stability, and common security. This was stated at the debate on regional and international security of the UN First Committee for Politics and Security in New York on Tuesday, 27 November.

The Vietnamese representative noted that the cause to conflicts and destabilization is poverty, economic differences, oppression, and the denial of fundamental right to freedom. He affirmed Vietnam's determination to do all it can to strengthen the solidarity with all nations in the world, thus making contribution to the common cause of world peace and security so as to enter the new century with a firm belief of a future of peace, development, and happiness on our planet.

Japanese Communist Party Delegation Visits

BK2911155290 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 29—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] today held talks with a visiting Japanese Communist Party delegation which arrived here yesterday as guest of the CPV Central Committee.

The Vietnamese delegation, led by Nguyen Thanh Binh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee, included Hoang Bich Son, member of the party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee's External Relations Commission .

The Japanese delegation, led by Tachiki Hiroshi, vice chairman of the Japanese Communist Party [JCP] Central Committee, included Kitani Yatsushi, member of the JCP Central Committee and representative of the JCP in Hanoi.

The two sides informed each other of their respective parties activities and exchanged views on international issues of common concern as well as measures to further develop the friendship and cooperation between the two parties in the present situation .

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and solidarity.

Do Muoi Receives Italian Government Delegation

BK2911155490 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 29—Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, this afternoon received at the Presidential Place, Hanoi, Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Lenoci and other members of the Italian Government delegation.

Chairman Do Muoi warmly welcomed the delegation's visit to Vietnam and highly appreciated the fine result of the second session of the Vietnam-Italy Joint Committee for Economic and Technological Cooperation. He sincerely thanked the Italian Government and people for their valuable aid to the Vietnamese people and affirmed Vietnam's desire to strengthen and broaden the multifaceted cooperation with Italy.

Deputy Minister Claudio Lenoci expressed his joy at visiting Vietnam and highly valued the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the cause of renovation. He stressed that the Italian Government's policy is to continue strengthening its economic and technological cooperation with Vietnam.

The reception took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

Also present at the reception were Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan and Italian ambassador to Vietnam M. Tsucci.

Meeting Held on Solidarity With Palestinians

BK2911155690 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 29—A meeting was held here this morning by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, the Committee for Solidarity With the Palestinian People, and the Women's Union of Hanoi on the occasion of the International Day for Solidarity With the Palestinian People (Nov. 29).

Among those present were Nguyen Nam Khanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the Committee for Solidarity With the Palestinian People, and Sandi Salama [name as received], charge d'affaires a.i. of the state of Palestine.

After the opening speech by Nguyen Nam Khanh, Ms. Phuong Kim Dung, president of the Hanoi Women's Union, delivered a speech affirming the Vietnamese people's resolute support for the Palestinian people's just struggle for their fundamental national rights.

She condemned Israel's recent acts of terrorism against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory, which, she said, have grossly encroached upon human right and blatantly challenged the world public opinion, thus arousing strong indignation of the Arab people and the peace- and justice-loving people in the world.

Taking the floor Sandi Salama expressed his belief that the unshakable solidarity and friendship between the Vietnamese and Palestinian people would constantly develop.

Do Muoi Congratulates New British Premier

BK2911155090 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 29—Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, has extended his warmest congratulations to John Major on his appointment as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The chairman wished the prime minister good health, happiness, and fine success in his noble mission, and the friendly and cooperative relations between the United Kingdom and Vietnam further consolidation and development.

Le Quang Dao Attends Albanian Reception

BK3011050990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Albanian Ambassador to Vietnam Gezim Dhrima and his wife hosted a reception in Hanoi on the evening of 28 November in honor of the 46th National Day of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, 29 November. Le Quang Dao, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of State; Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly; Nguyen Dy Nien, vice foreign minister; and many representatives of various agencies and mass organizations were present.

Ambassador Gezim Dhrima, Comrade Le Quang Dao, and other guests drank a toast to the constant consolidation and development of the fine relations of friendship and cooperation between Albania and Vietnam.

Leaders Send Greetings

BK3011050390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On 28 November, Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; and Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent the following message of greetings to Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Albanian Workers Party [AWP] Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania; and Comrade Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of of Albania:

On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of Albania's liberation and the victory of the Albainian people's revolution, may we extend to you, the AWP Central Committee, the People's Assembly Presidium, the Council of Ministers, and the people of Albania our best regards and warmest greetings. The Vietnamese people are elated at the achievements recorded by the Albanian people over the past 46 years in building a new life. On the occasion of this historic anniversary, we sincerely wish the Albanian people many new and even greater successes in national construction, in the ongoing democratization and revolutionization process, and in continuing to advance Albania on the path of socialist construction.

We are deeply convinced that the traditional friendly relations and existing cooperation between our two countries will be further consolidated and developed with each passing day in the interests of the two peoples and of peace and social progress.

On this occasion, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach also sent a message of greetings to his Albanian counterpart, Reiz Malile.

Uzbek Delegation Arrives for Friendship Visit

BK2811100790 Hanoi VNA in English 0747 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 28—A delegation of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic government led by U.K. Ismailov, vice chairman of the Uzbek cabinet under the republic's president, arrived here yesterday for a friendship visit.

The delegation was welcomed at the government's guest house by Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Dang Vu Chu, minister of Light Industry and representatives of the Council of Ministers' office, the Foreign Ministry, the State Planning Committee, and the Ministry of Commerce.

Yesterday evening, Vice Chairman Tran Duc Luong gave a banquet in honour of the Uzbek guests.

Received by Do Muoi

BK2811160190 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 28—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi received here today the visiting delegation of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic government led by U.K. Ismailov, vice chairman of the Uzbek cabinet under the republic's president.

Chairman Do Muoi warmly welcomed the delegation's visit which, he said, had brought the Uzbek people's close friendship to the Vietnamese people. He highly valued the fraternal friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Uzbekistan as a solid foundation for the consolidation and enhancement of the bilateral cooperation.

Chairman Do Muoi expressed the sincere gratitude to the Uzbek people in particular and the Soviet people in general for their constant support for and solidarity with the Vietnamese people.

He pointed to the important significance of the Uzbek government delegation's first visit to Vietnam in promoting the direct economic relations between the two countries. He stressed that Vietnam and Uzbekistan have great potentials to broaden their cooperation in the economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields.

On behalf of the Uzbek delegation, U.K. Izmainlov highly valued Vietnam's successes in its renovation and affirmed the Uzbek people's fine sentiments towards the Vietnamese people. He said that his delegation's visit was a new demonstration of the Uzbek people's and government's desire to further promote the relations between the two peoples.

The reception took place in a cordial atmosphere. It was also attended by Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dang Vu Chu, minister of light industry; Hoang Thuc Tan, deputy head of the Office of the Council of Ministers; and Soviet ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin.

Kaysone Phomvihan Awarded Ho Chi Minh Order

BK3011084690 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 30—The Vietnamese State Council has decided to confer the Ho Chi Minh Order on Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

The decision was signed on November 26 by State Council President Vo Chi Cong, saying that the conferement was an acknowledgement of Kaysone Phomvihan's considerable contributions to consolidating and promoting the special friendship, militant solidarity and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

Ten years ago, Kaysone Phomvihan was decorated with Vietnam's Gold Star Order on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

State Planning Commission Group Visits Laos

BK2911142890 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] A delegation of the Vietnamese State Planning Commission led by its Vice Chairman Tran Phuong has paid a working visit to Laos. During its stay in Laos, the delegation held talks with the Lao delegation of the Ministry of Economic, Planning, and Finance headed by First Vice Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong.

The two sides exchanged experiences on carrying out the new mechanism for economic management in each country. The delegation was received by Mr. Sali Vongkhamsao, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economic, planning, and finance of Laos.

Nation Supports World Dialogue, Cooperation

BK3011084090 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 30—"Vietnam will do its utmost to strengthen friendship with other nations in the world, contribute to the common cause of peace and security of the world, thus turning to the new millenium with our firm belief in the bright future of peace, development and a happy life on our planet."

This was stated by Nguyen Duc Hung, Vietnamese delegate to the UN Committee of Political Security's debate in New York on November 27. He said:

"The roots of conflict and insecurity included poverty, economic disparity, oppression and the denial of fundamental freedoms. Unless problems of social and economic under-development are addressed, common security will never be truly attained. Peace and security will not be fully realized unless peoples and nations are freed from the trap of poverty. However, far more people in the world today are suffering from economic than from military insecurity.

"The decades of political confrontation were over. Today, states live in a situation of interdependence. Thus, the time has come for concerted efforts to promote common security and establish a dialogue in economic cooperation, create prosperity and stability the world over."

Indo-Vietnamese Textile Industry Seminars Held

BK3011091490 Hanoi VNA in English 0732 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 30—A delegation from the Textile Machinery Manufacturers' Association (TMMA), Bombay, India, visited Vietnam from November 24 to 28, 1990 to hold seminars in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. The delegation held its seminar at the Hanoi Spinning Mill on November 27 in which the state of the Vietnamese textile machinery currently in use and needing renovation especially in the weaving and [word indistinct] areas was stressed by Vietnamese speakers. The Indian side gave an account of Indian textile machinery production and its capability to meet the needs of Vietnam having in mind the similarity of conditions in the two countries. The seminar was attended by over sixty delegates from various textile units located in northern provinces of Vietnam.

Earlier, a similar seminar had been held in Ho Chi Minh City for delegates from the southern and central provinces.

Fight Against Border Smuggling Continues

BK3011081390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Essay by Le Ngoc Dinh: "Border Guards With the Duty of Fighting Smuggling Across the Border"]

[Summary] "Entering November, the fight against border smuggling continues to develop decisively, fiercely, and in a complicated manner. It is especially noted that the scourge of smuggling in the southwestern border provinces of Kien Giang, An Giang, Dong Thap, Tay Ninh, and Song Be has not dissipated and has instead continued to thrive. Smuggling activities have become more sophisticated and crafty and there have been open attempts to fight back against responsible officials."

Smugglers have hired hundreds of people to work both as porters and body guards. "They are bringing in from abroad all kinds of goods ranging from beer, wine, cigarettes, television sets, and refrigerators to music cassettes recorded abroad with frenzied anticommunist contents. Billions of Vietnamese dong, millions of dong in hard currencies, thousands of metric tons of iron, and hundreds of metric tons of copper are massively pouring across the border."

As an essential force in charge of fighting border smuggling, the Border Defense Corps has embarked on a quiet and complex struggle fraught with hardship and sacrifice. Since the promulgation of Directive No. 278 of the Council of Ministers, the Border Defense Corps has closely cooperated with antismuggling task forces along the border to investigate and make arrests involving many major smuggle cases. For example: Trang Cat border defense post in Haiphong seized a vessel belonging to Hong Phong cooperative in Quang Ninh with many foreign-made goods aboard, including 150 cases of beer, three metric tons of sugar, and 970 pieces of furniture. On 1 October, guards at a road checkpoint at border marker No. 16 in Lang Son arrested 40 porters trying to smuggle 1,490 kg of copper across the border. The Khanh Hoa border guards stopped a vessel of Thuan Hai Province on the way to the Hon Khoi island, seizing 270 metric tons of cement, 80 metric tons of sugar, and a number of bicyles, all foreign-made. The Gia Lai-Cong Tum border guards arrested three persons, seizing three pack bicycles, 328 cartons of foreign cigarettes, one AR-15 rifle, and 17 rounds of ammunition.

"Especially in July, guards at a checkpoint at the Sa Mat border gate in Tay Ninh imposed a fine and drove back across the border 38,000 cases of foreign-made beer being smuggled into Vietnam. On 6 October, the Tay Ninh border guards also discovered a storage yard with 1,500 cases of beer at the edge of a forest."

"From early September to late October, the Border Defense Corps made arrests involving 15 cases with 150 big-time smugglers, seizing 248 metric tons of iron, 15 metric tons of copper, 45 metric tons of rubber latex, 19,500 cartons of foreign cigarettes, and many other goods."

The Border Defense Corps has closely linked implementation of Directive No. 278 with efforts to enforce the Council of Ministers Directive No. 175 on launching crackdowns against criminals. "During the last two weeks of October alone, border guard units arrested 90 persons, including two murderers, six thieves, eight explosives traders, 66 gold and sandalwood dealers; and seized 245 kg of explosive, 19 AK and K-44 rifles, one K-59 pistol, and three grenades."

With these outstanding achievements, the Border Defense Corps has been awarded many letters of commendation by the Ministry of Interior and by various provincial people's committees.

Communique From 29 Nov Council of State Meeting

BK3011130390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Communique of the Council of State]

[Text] On 29 November, the Council of State met under the chairmanship of Chairman Vo Chi Cong.

1. After hearing a report by the head of the Office of the National Assembly and Council of State, the Council of State discussed and contributed views to work in preparation for the eighth session of the National Assembly. The Council of State commended the people and combatants throughout the country and all echelons, sectors, and social and mass organizations at the central level and in localities for promoting their democratic spirit and responsibility as citizens in contributing many practical and constructive views to improving the work program of the session. The Council of State reminded the Council of Ministers and all organs concerned to promptly gather the views contributed by the people and National Assembly deputies to prepare reports and drafts to be submitted to the National Assembly.

2. Based on the report of the Council of Ministers, the Council of State estimated the 1991 legislative programs of the National Assembly and Council of State for soliciting views among National Assembly deputies at the eighth session.

3. At the request of the Council of Ministers, the Council of States decided to award the People's Armed Forces Hero title to the people and People's Armed Forces of 11 localities and two units of the Defense Ministry and the Labor Hero title to one unit and one individual of the Defense Ministry for their outstanding achievements in and contributions to the cause of national construction and defense.

Journal Reports on Stabilization, Development

BK2911135590 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Sep 90 pp 25-29

[Article by Phan Dinh Dieu, deputy head of the Vietnam Academy of Science: "Stabilization and Development in the Current Situation"]

[Text] We are living in a period in which eventful changes are taking place not only in the outside world but also in our country. The world is about to enter the final decade of this century prior to embarking on the 21st century. More major developments are being achieved in a profoundly-changing situation which has begun in the past few decades. Wonderful findings of the current scientific and industrial revolution are literally putting the world in an era of human civilization where a great deal of major fundamental progress has been achieved by the production force, entailing numerous characteristic and structural changes in the social economy. A fundamental trait is that the world, with developed countries as its representatives, is swiftly shifting from an "industrialized" civilization to a "post-industrialized" civilization, from mechanized industrial production to automated and computerized production—an economy based on intellectual communications. The shift from an industrialized society to a computerized one is also a shift from an economy heavily characterized by nationalism to an economy characterized by global cooperation, from an organizational and managerial method heavily characterized by centralism to the trend of decentralism, from regarding the exploitation of natural resources and energy as the main source of earnings to considering the exploitation of information and intelligence as an essential thing. In social organization, there is a shift from regarding as most important the hierarchic, master-servant structure to a better, predominantly equitable structure, from a democracy characterized by representation to a democracy by direct participation, from requirements for neatly-organized collectiveness to requirements for promoting increased individual freedom, etc.

The methods of socioeconomic organization and management in the Soviet Union as well in other East European countries have long failed to meet requirements for the rapid development of our time. Recent turmoils in these countries stemmed from one of the following main reasons: Objective demands for changing the old hierarchy have hit a snag. With a new hierarchy, we will be able to create necessary conditions for development. Under these developments, in certain cases, if the existence of one extremist factor was denied, another would arise. Beside rational denial, there was also extremist denial. It is certainly that after the upheavals at the turn of history, these countries will gradually be able to achieve a new, stabilized situation necessary for economic development in line with epochal changes.

Our country is poor and backward in all respects—economic, social, scientific, and technological—and its knowledge is still at a very low level, given the present civilization in the world. Therefore, there can be problems which are urgent for developed countries but not for us. More precisely, we still have to solve nmumerous other problems before we can deal with similar problems now confronting developed countries. But in the current "globalization" trend, we also do not have time to do one work after another and from lower to higher levels in an orderly manner unless we resign ourselves to taking the backseat position. Therefore, to a certain extent, the world's problems will also be ours.

Since the Sixth Party Congress, in our country, the renovation undertaking has brought many changes, particularly in the economic area. We are pleased with those striking results obtained last year: inflation was dispelled, prices were relatively stable, food production was up, the multisectoral commodity-based economy started to develop, etc. These progressive factors, however, are not stable. Major socioeconomic difficulties confronting us remain untouched. Though inflation has been contained, to maintain our potential to fight inflation, we must take more drastic measures. Although the commodity market has been broadened, social production remains sluggish and, even worse, hits a recession in certain areas. All respects of the socioeconomic life are beset with an anarchic situation marked by lack of democracy and indiscipline. Social vices remain grave. Education—the factor deciding the potential of the nation to upgrade itself to the level of the contemporary civilization—is going downhill alarmingly.

Faced with such a situation, the party has asserted its continued acceleration of the renovation undertaking. Renovation is designed to achieve continued production, economic and cultural development, thus making it possible for the country to free itself from backwardness and to move toward prosperity and modernization. And in order to carry out renovation and achieve development, it is essential to have a stable situation, especially a politically stable situation. In principle, it is obvious when the renovative trend has been ascertained. A more careful look at these problems, however, reveals that they are very copious. Development is an objective and stabilization is, in turn, a condition for development. Then what is the essence of stabilization? And how can stabilization be carried out to truly create conditions for development? The following paragraphs will present my views on these important issues.

The rapid development of today's world has created many challenges, as well as opportunities, for each country to develop. Whether or not each nation can surge forward, though, it must, after all, rely mainly on its own abilities. Under current conditions, the capability of a nation is manifested first of all by whether or not that nation is able to create a favorable social environment in which all its potentials can be brought into full play to produce material and cultural assets, and its commerce can be made broadly with the world civilization in order to select and acquire achievements by mankind in all fields.

In the process of economic renovation, we have asserted the need to develop the multisectoral production of goods with large-scale regulation by the state. Yet, in shifting a centralized and subsidized economy to a market-oriented economy, there still are countless problems to which satisfactory solutions have not been found, ranging from theoretical viewpoints to policies, systems, rules, laws and so on. The purpose of developing the production of goods is to promote the ability of individuals and society to prosper. As for the regulating intervention of the state, it is aimed at ensuring the major balances of the economy and creating conditions for the economy to develop in the right direction and avoid crises, and so forth. Yet, to attain all these goals, a series of important problems must be solved satisfactorily, such as the question of property ownership, the various forms of business organization, the real role and position of state-run business; the contents, levels and limits of various large-scale regulation measures taken by the state, and so on. In sum, there should be an adequate system of economic laws to ensure a reliable order for development. If there is no such system, what should be promoted can not be promoted while negative abuses can easily develop. As a result, in the current process of our economic renovation, the pressing problems are to establish clear viewpoints suitable to the objective economic laws of goods production, or to be more accurate, a market-oriented economy in our country, and to quickly promulgate an adequate system of laws on economic operations.

The second point is in what direction should the economy be developed? We have already discussed, are discussing and will discuss this issue a great deal. Obviously, first of all, we should adequately develop the abilities currently available in agricultural and industrial production to ensure that all the society's basic needs—especially for grain and food products—can be met. What we should ponder extensively is that since sooner or later we will be integrated with the global economy, which of our latent potentials should be developed most effectively, and, as a result, what policies and measures should we adopt to exploit these latent potentials? As stated above, the world economy is shifting gradually to an economy of information and intelligence in which products and services of the information domain account for ever greater amounts in the national revenues. Along with the process of information science, the various technological fields call for an ever greater volume of intelligence and more activities in cultural interchange. Particularly cultural works and national arts ... will hold ever greater economic significance. So, it is mainly to fruitfully develop the economy at present and for the future that we should be particularly concerned with the cultivation of intellectual assets for the nation. We should raise the standard of intelligence for not only a stratum of people whom we usually call intellectuals, but also for the whole nation. Our people are usually said to be intelligent. This is true from the viewpoint on latent potential. Should we see clearly our weaknesses in all areas of sciences (natural, social, economic, managerial, technological), the serious decline of our education, the backward and poor conditions of our university and scientific research facilities, however, only then can we realize profoundly all our pains because of underdevelopment. Although we are still poor, alongside crumbling school facilities, quite a lot of showy waste can still be seen. To enable our nation to surge forward and reach the world civilization standard, intensive investment in accelerating our education, training and scientific development must be considered one of the most important tasks of the state and a national policy of development.

Once the trends of development have been set, we must ensure stability to create conditions for development to proceed in the right direction and in a healthy way. Stability is a condition for development and not an objective by itself. Therefore, stability must keep pace with development. By this, we mean we need the very kind of stability brought about by dynamic progress and not the kind that results from inertia, sluggishness, or stagnation. Stability is the opposite of chaos. We cannot attain development in chaos. Nonetheless, stability does not rule out necessary changes for attaining development. Therefore, we must anticipate objective demands and effect changes accordingly. If we do not have a dialectical concept of stability, we will easily fall victim to contradiction. For example, how should we interpret the need to stick with Marxism-Leninism and the socialist path? Because Marxism-Leninism covers a very wide field of knowledge, we need to study its fundamental principles more thoroughly in order to have a correct understanding of facts. Nonetheless, certain practical conclusions reached by Marx and Lenin no longer apply to today's changing world. If Marx and Lenin had lived until today, they would probably have arrived at different conclusions. Therefore, we need to creatively apply the fundamental principles in order to reach a conclusion suited to the new conditions. The socialist model based on public ownership of key production means and on a rigid state-planned economic system has turned out to be inefficient. For several years now, we have tried to change those fundamental factors ourselves. Thus, the term adherence to socialism should be understood as adherence to the objectives and fundamental principles of socialism and not adherence to a model which no longer applies. Indeed, many problems need proper solutions. Words alone will lead nowhere. Given the current situation, our party and state should adopt a scientific attitude by mobilizing our nation's intellectual potential to work toward an appropriate development strategy based on a renovative socialist path suitable with our specific conditions and with mankind's civilization and then motivating our entire people to effect changes along that path. Isn't it what we expect to achieve through our concept of stability in support of and alongside development?

The second point of interest is the fact that diversity has become more and more prominent in today's modern society. Diversity is an objective reality and one of the characteristics of an affluent and rich society. Stability in a diversity-oriented society means not only an acceptance of diversity itself but also a need to seek ways to exploit the abundance of diversity to enrich the society and henceforth, to help secure more stability alongside development. The world and our country are now facing countless problems which call for adequate interpretations and solutions. The knowledge of each individual or each group of individuals is usually relative and superficial. Exchanges of views and straightforward debates will create conditions for us to compare and supplement "relative truths" and ultimately attain "truths" which have greater intellectual vitality and which will be more beneficial to the nation.

Stability in a diversity-oriented society also means stability under a democratic system. The democratic system that we struggle for must guarantee conditions for all citizens to enjoy genuine freedom of thought and freedom of speech and press as well as to have the right to exchange opinions, to debate on all national issues, and to run for elections and to vote in order to select the right candidates to handle national affairs.

And finally, all the abovementioned stability issues must be guaranteed by law. We are still very deficient in our legal system, particularly in our law on economic operations. At the same time, people still display a very low sense of respect for the existing laws. The lack of respect for the law is one of the manifestations of the backwardness of our society that we need to make persistent efforts to overcome. Law enforcement must prevail in a society. In any given society, all citizens have the duty to abide by the law as well as the right to enjoy legal protection. Except for the fact that they respect the law because of law enforcement measures, citizens will not be willing to abide by other discipline unless they do it on a voluntary basis. Therefore, there is an urgent need to quickly perfect our legal system in order to guarantee conditions for securing stability in support of development.

It is our sincere hope that citizens of our country have every condition for developing their strengths so that they will be able to enrich themselves materially and intellectually, and henceforth, to contribute to bringing about prosperity to the nation. Due to the harsh conditions of history, our country has been subjected to much division and isolation from the world outside. It is hopeful that the time has come for us to fill the divisional gap and to work collectively in bringing about prosperity to the country amid an atmosphere of stability created by reconciliation and sense of responsibility toward the nation as well as the need for global integration, thus building a civilized Vietnamese society within the civilized world community.

Article on Renovation Versus Adaptation

BK2711045190 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by Professor Major General Tran Xuan Truong: "Renovation or Adaptation?"]

[Text] Of late, the word "adaptation," which is a biological and ecological term to indicate the relations between living organisms and the environment, has been used to denote a political concept. Some people maintain that now that the world is undergoing continual changes in all domains, we must know how to adapt ourselves to the circumstances; otherwise we will be left behind as a backward nation. People have cited historical lessons to substantiate their argument as follows: Thanks to adaptation and reform-mindedness, Japan under the Emperor Meiji was a prosperous country. Meanwhile, Vietnam under King Tu Duc was a weak and dominated nation because the government did not know how to adapt itself to the changing situation but continued to maintain an outmoded policy. People have gone a step further by upgrading the adaptation concept to a guiding principle in an effort to "develop" our party-initiated renovation line in such a way as to suit their own concept that the true nature of the renovation undertaking rests with the very adaptation strategy because, in their words, renovation cannot bear fruit if a country does not have the ability to adapt itself to the circumstances and trends of the modern world. People have given "sage" advice that no one can understand the modern world through an outdated outlook.

Within a certain context, the concept of adaptation does make sense and is part of the dialectical method. Nonetheless, it is not advisable to use that term to designate a domestic or foreign policy in support of national development. The term suggests something vague and impulsively changeable, a pragmatic attitude, and a tendency to switch sides like a chameleon constantly changing its colors, thus incorrectly reflecting the true nature of our party's renovation line.

Indeed, people who support the adaptation theory—if this can be called a theory—want to stress the need to display flexibility in politics, thus hoping to supplement President Ho Chi Minh's formula concerning the need for changes. This two-part formula calls for perseverance in one's ideals in order to remain unaffected by unnecessary changes in the world outside as well as for efforts to effect changes where needed. Indeed, if we understand the meaning of President Ho Chi Minh's concept, we could realize that his formula stresses both the need to adhere to one's principles and the importance of a flexible policy. Applying this formula, revolutionaries have been able to handle all complicated political situations and have dealt even with the devils, knowing how to reach compromise with them. Nonetheless, they have never forgotten their ideals and objectives and have known how to set limits to compromises. Therefore, there is no need to devise a new formula because by so doing one may give rise to negative consequences. Given the extensive upheavals in today's world, if the participants in the "game" attach too much importance to the "changes in the world outside," they may easily be overcome by dizziness and carried away by those upheavals, thus making it difficult for them to remain loyal to their ideals and objectives. As far as international relations and cooperation are concerned, we have effected changes and will continue to do so. Nonetheless, this does not mean that we must "change" our principles and break away from the path and goals we have chosen.

It is necessary for the renovation line of the Sixth Party Congress to be amended, perfected, and developed a step further. We think that in the days to come, while making preparations for the Seventh Party Congress, efforts will be needed to mobilize the intellect of our entire party, people, and army to carry out that task. Basically, this line is correct because it ascertains the need to persevere in and not change the socialist path and because it calls for efforts to formulate the contents and forms of activities aimed at building and developing production forces, production relations, and superstructures according to a model suitable to the historical conditions of Vietnam and, of course, with the great changes in all fields all over the world. A socioeconomic crisis is taking place in our country. Nonetheless, unlike what happened in our country at the beginning of the 20th century or what has happened now in certain parts of the world, our country does not face any political crisis at present.

Recently, we also heard about the concept of a "rare opportunity" for our country. People talked about the startling development of the contemporary scientific and technological revolution; the new system of the international division of labor; the internationalization of all domains of life in various nations; and the trend of detente, cooperation, harmony, and mutual assistance that has increasingly been promoted in the world along with the emergence and intensification of mankind's interests. They held that since we have already missed many opportunities, now we should know how to seize this opportunity; otherwise we will be condemned by history. The question that must be debated, however, is the essence of changes in the world and what the so-called "rare opportunity" means for our country. This is an extremely important question which, so far, has not yet been profoundly debated by us.

Those advocating adaptation tend to forget to include in their equation an extremely important factor. And without that factor, they could fall victim to subjective illusions and a new concept of voluntarism while in the process of solving a social problem. It is true that the world is now undergoing startling changes, while mankind is striving toward marvelous scientific and technological achievements that can help the backward nations advance themselves rapidly. It is true that the new system of international division of labor and the internationalization of relations among nations are also creating new favorable conditions that must be taken into account by every country while in the process of planning development strategy. No matter how the world has changed, however, politically and socially it still cannot overcome the bitter antagonism between capitalism and socialism. The Third World is still there. The exploitation of newly independent countries in terms of politics by capitalism or by multinational corporations not only exists, but also increases alarmingly under more sophisticated and reserved economic and financial forms. In other words, the substance of our time still has not changed basically despite the fact that it has been absorbed with some new factors of development, thus changing the forms and pace of its evolution process against what has been forecast in the past.

Some people may maintain that such thinking is still bound with old concepts. These people believe that new thinking demands that we know how to adapt ourselves to the new conditions of development of the environment and that we be able to achieve coordination between our country and other countries in all issues, including that of ideology. Let these concepts be judged by political realities in the world as to whether they are old or not. If we were based on facts and not on theory, then we would realize that it is the imperialist countries that are using these concepts as the basis for their political thinking and action. Let certain people pretentiously entertain the illusion that the world has entered an era in which different civilizations are brought together and that for a long time now imaginary or nonexistent enemies have been set up by other people to justify the policies of confrontation. The bourgeois states still continue defining friends and foes, strengthening military deterrent forces, and adopting policies on exercising infallible discrimination between friendly and hostile nations. Thus, it is the bourgeois ideologists and politicians who firmly grasp the substance of our time and who firmly maintain their class stand and class struggle. This means they still cling to the old concepts. In such a situation, should we cling to these concepts or should we discard them in order to switch to other concepts, concepts capable of creating many illusions and precipitating lamentable failures?

Those who have promoted the policy of seizing the "once-in-a-millenium opportunity" usually cite the models of newly industrialized countries in Asia, a certain dragon and "tiger," hoping that if we know how to adapt and reconcile, we will be able to develop just like they do. We do not deny the necessity of learning what is good in those neighboring countries. We should not forget one very basic difference, however, which is that those countries have been part and parcel of the capitalist market for decades. In those countries, the multinational corporations have firmly established their networks. For the past decade or more, when those corporations advocated the policy of developing those economic sectors of high technology in their own countries, they transferred abroad those sectors of low technology standards. This has helped create a rather high rate of industrial development in those countries. Vietnam will certainly be an attractive market for those capitalist corporations to deal with. We are ready to cooperate with other countries and receive their investments and technologies for economic development beneficial to both sides. Yet, we should not rely on those investments under any illusion, but should advance, develop our economy, and build our country with the strength and potential of our own country and our own nation.

It is right that nowadays, while defending independence and freedom and building our country, we cannot close our doors but must participate in the international labor division, and know how to contact and conduct commerce with the world. The world is undergoing terrible changes that are in some respects advantageous to us, but in other respects can cause us more difficulties. While remaining loyal to international socialism, we must adopt a flexible policy, know how to conduct commerce and business with the world, and adapt to the changes in the new groupings of political and economic forces in the world to exploit what is available in those countries and essential to our national construction.

When we persist in the socialist line and reject pluralism and the system of many opposition parties and when we proceed from the traditions and history of our country, it does not of course suit the "taste" and expectation of the capitalist world. Yet, we should realize that there are quite a number of social groups and people in that world who, although holding different ideologies and political views from ours, still have goodwill and sympathy with our people and want to cooperate with us. We should highly appraise and struggle for such cooperation. The important point is that we should realize that the world of bourgeois states is also in the process of multipolarization and striving vigorously to go along with the rearrangement of world forces. Not only has the world shifted from a Soviet-U.S. bipolar to multipolar one, but the United States, West Europe, and Japan themselves have also become large poles, each divided into smaller poles. Each capitalist is a pole now, and even within a country the process of depolarization at a lower level also exists between the state and private companies and among the private companies themselves. That world does not remain unified at all times because it is a world in which the evolution of economic interests plays the controlling role. As a result, apart from their unity in opposing socialism, fragments of that world will adopt specifically different political attitudes toward our country, especially in the domain of economic and business relations, because of their different interests. We must therefore know how to swim in those streams of interests, detect loopholes and do business with acceptable objectives. Only within this limit and from this viewpoint can the idea of adaptation hold some rational political contents.

We must persist in the path that has been chosen since the early decades of this century by Ho Chi Minh—the man representing the intellect of Vietnam and our time. It is this path which has led to the great revolutionary achievements with the merit and sacrifice of many generations of fallen heores. Persistence in the path that has been chosen is not an act of "obstinacy" or "sensitivity" in politics as some people might have thought. That persistence is based on the recommendation of scientific reason under actual current conditions. Continuing to advance on that path is the best measure for us to bring about happiness for our people in the shortest period of time. In the immediate future, there are only two paths for our people: to continue advancing on the socialist path or to switch to the path of capitalist development. There is no third path for us. The concept of a society that seeks to receive good things and exclude awkward things of both socialism and capitalism is merely an illusion.

Generally speaking, capitalism cannot be the answer to the liberation of working mankind. Since Vietnam is a nation that has upheld the anti-imperialist banner and has furnished some powerful imperialist countries with distressing experiences, it is even more impossible for it to seek a way out from the process of capitalist development.

What prediction can we make of Vietnam's destiny if we decide to give up the socialist path? It is most likely that we will plunge into a worse situation, become a dependent country of another dependent country, and lose both our independence and freedom.

Meanwhile, it is not easy to become an ordinary developing capitalist country. Let us refer to the comment of a German author in the magazine SACHSISCHER ZEITUNG: "Can Vietnam become a truly scrupulous cat by the side of the four Asian tigers? This will depend heavily on the flexibility in the political sphere." The comment and comparison are relatively convincing. Just take a look at a cat and a tiger. Even the fate of a cat, however, requires high prices!

For this region, let our national pride, revolutionary persistence, loyalty to historic traditions, and a cautious and objective analysis of the actual situation lead us to one and only one conclusion: We must exert joint efforts to continue advancing on the path we have chosen. Of course, we will have to advance cautiously with fewer mistakes. Despite the heritage of decades of advancing on that path and apart from the achievements we have recorded, there remain many painful and distressful things. Despite an inefficient economy, cumbersome state machinery, bureaucratism, a lack of democracy, corruption, and social injustice, we still have to advance persistently on that path through new changes with a revolutionary nature under the framework of the system we have chosen for our progress.

Dao Duy Tung at Education Ministry Conference

BK3011093890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Ministry of Education and Training is implementing the Party Central Committee's directive on contributing views to various draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress, on 28 and 29 November in Hanoi. To this end, the ministry held a conference of key cadres currently working at various agencies of the ministry and colleges and high-level schools in the area of Hanoi to brief them on the ideological substance of the draft program on socialist construction during the transitional period in our country.

In his opening speech at the conference, which was attended by more than 1,000 delegates, Minister of Education and Training Tran Hong Quan pointed out the profound significance of the task of soliciting views of the sector's intelligentsia to contribute to various draft documents to be submitted to the Seventh National Party Congress.

Comrade Dao Duy Tung, political bureau member and secretary of the Party Central Committee, personally introduced the basic ideological substance of the draft program on building socialism during the transitional period in our country.

Australia

Hawke: UN Resolution 'Strong Signal to Saddam'

BK3011075390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr Hawke, says the UN resolution is the strongest signal so far that the world will not accept Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

[Corespondent Evan Williams] Mr Hawke says the resolution is a strong signal to Saddam Husayn that the world is not going to tolerate his annexation of Kuwait. He said it is not a signal for war, but a sign that the world is serious about wanting Iraq to withdraw and release all hostages.

[Hawke] I do hope very sincerely that he will understand now that here is a statement of the world's intention and that his own interests and the interests of his own people are best served by complying with the decision.

[Williams] Mr Hawke says he will spell out the government stand on Tuesday and admits there is now doubt over his planned trip to the Gulf.

Senator Calls For More UN Pressure on Burma

BK2911123990 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Nov 90

[From the "International Affairs" program]

[Text] The chairman of Australia's parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, defense, and trade, Senator Chris Schacht, has called for a tougher stand in the United Nations on the political situation in Burma. Senator Schacht said a draft resolution tabled in the United Nations last week by Sweden and cosponsored by Australia does not go far enough. The senator told Michael Bresenton that the resolution has been watered down to try to attract support form the Third World and ASEAN members, but he believed Australia has a moral obligation to take a stronger line.

[Begin recording] [Schacht] Well, I think that the resolution should demand that the military government hand over power to the democratically elected National Assembly, which would land the National League for Democracy in government, to release immediately all the political prisoners and particularly the political leaders, make it quite clear that the human rights abuses that have been going on in Burma are absolutely unacceptable. Every day we are hearing further accounts of human rights abuses by the military regime. So, I think those are things I would like to see in the resolution stronger, [as heard] but I do concede that in the politics of the United Nations it is not as simple as I would want and I certainly agree that any resolution that was defeated because it was unacceptable to the majority of the Third World would be a serious defeat.

[Bresenton] Even if it did say that, how would [words indistinct]?

[Schacht] Well, some people say that the present military government called the State Law and Order Restoration Council—the SLORC—takes no notice of anything said in the world. I am afraid [words indistinct] that is correct. However, I think that the incessant pressure that has to be built upon Burma in the end makes even the military regime worry about their own future. It also, even if it is done in the Western countries to start off with, that is going to build up pressure on the ASEAN countries as well to come to the party to put pressure on the government in Burma to have a transition to democracy.

[Bresenton] You were recently in the area. What reports did you get? What specific reports did you get while you were there as to the human rights conditions in Burma at the moment?

[Schacht] While I was in Bangkok back in July, September, I spoke to a number of Burmese refugees, political exiles, and so on. They all gave detailed accounts of the human rights abuses, which were about people being tortured, people being compulsorily conscripted into the Army to be porters for fighting along the border with ethnic minorities, and so on. It is all a very, very distressing situation. I applied to visit Burma—to get a visa to visit Burma and the government refused to give me a visa which was almost unprecedented for two countries with diplomatic relations, for a member of parliament to be refused. I think we are going to have to continue to argue in the rest of the world, not just in the Western world, but in the Third World and our region that the problem in Burma is an unstable situation and it is not good for Southeast Asia to have a country like Burma basically isolated and not going anywhere in development and becoming sort of the Sick Man of Asia.

[Bresenton] Is there any indication the Burmese authorities are taking notice of any of the pressure at all? Is there any indication they are going to hand over the reins of power?

[Schacht] In the short term there seems to be no indication at all. They seem to be fudging everything and in every direction. They have arrested practically all the leadership now of the party that won the elections—the NLD—which indicates that they do not have any immediate plans to hand over power and they are talking about having further consultations and further elections which are bound to take years. It is all the device to hang on to power, but in the end, I believe the people of Burma [changes thought] there are going to be disturbances, there are going to be general protests which may well lead to bloodshed, unfortunately. But that may be the only way in which the people of Burma (?might be able) to establish a government with some respect for human rights. [end recording]

Treasurer Concedes Country in Economic Recession

BK2911095890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Nov 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia's treasurer, Paul Keating, has finally conceded that the country is officially in a recession. For months, senior government ministers have refused to use the term recession, but the release today of the national accounts has put the issue beyond doubt. But, as our national affairs correspondent, Tony Hastings, reports, the treasurer says he expects the economy to recover during the first half of next year.

[Begin recording] [Hastings] The technical definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of negative growth. During the June quarter, gross domestic product declined by 0.4 percent. And now the national account figures have revealed that GDP declined by 1.6 percent during the September quarter. That is, two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

As journalists waited for Mr Keating to discuss the national accounts, they started betting on when the treasurer would use the word recession. They did not have long to wait.

[Keating] Well, I will just give a few comments on the national account and the first thing to say is that the accounts do show that Australia is in a recession, and the most important thing about that is this is the recession Australia had to have. That the spending we have in the two years up to now was unsustainable and we could not go on spending and consuming at the rate we were, carrying imports we were, and the debt we were, and of course, the erosion of our (?gains) on inflation.

It is entirely possible that in terms of output, the worst impact of the recession, has in fact, (?passed). The outlook for 1991 is far more encouraging. I think in September quarter we will have inflation declining substantially, interest rates have declined further. We are seeing now a pick-up in housing commencements, and of course, [words indistinct] is being conducted to encourage our sustainable recovery through 1991. So, there has been a short-term pain, but that is for a long-term gain.

[Hastings] While Mr Keating said he expects the economy to recover during the first half of 1991, he added that another quarter of negative growth is entirely possible. But, the treasurer claimed that the present recession will not be as bad as the recession of 1982-83 when the liberal opposition was in power.

[Keating] But if you look at the state of deterioration in employment in 1982-83 and the fact that there were four quarters of negative growth in 1982-83 and unemployment went from 6.3 to 10.1 percent in 10 months. It was a much more devastating recession than this is. So, if you ask me a question: is it hard like the 1982-83, the answer is no. Is it harder than what we would have expected a year ago? The answer is yes.

[Hastings] Indeed, according to the treasurer, there will be, in his words, unemployment about in the coming months although he was not willing to put a figure on it. He was also reluctant to commit himself to a cut in interest rates before the end of the year although he said a cut is still a possibility.

The opposition has called on the government to make an economic statement as soon as possible, but the treasurer dismissed the idea out of hand. [end recording]

Reportage on Defense Minister's Visit to Oman

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For reportage on the visit by Defense Minister Robert Ray to Oman, including reports on his meeting with Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and other officials, please see the Oman section of the 28 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

French Polynesia

Greenpeace Activists Not Allowed in Papeete

BK2711034590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Sydney, Nov 27 (AFP)—France has enforced a five-year-old ban preventing the captain and a deckhand of the Rainbow Warrior going ashore in Papeete, capital of French Polynesia, Greenpeace International said Tuesday.

Captain Peter Willcox and deckhand Sue Ware say they were refused visas to go ashore because of a prohibition decree issued against them in 1985 when they were members of the crew of the Greenpeace yacht Vega. The Vega, which sailed to Mururoa to protest the bombing of the first Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour, was arrested crossing the 12 nautical mile limit into Mururoa and its crew was deported.

Captain Willcox, from the U.S. state of Connecticut, and Ms. Ware, a New Zealander, were told the ban was being reimposed on Tuesday (Monday, Papeete time) after the Rainbow Warrior docked for a four-day stop.

The rest of the crew, which will number 30 before the departure on Friday, were unaffected by the ban.

Greenpeace said the ship is en route to the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa to assess the environmental consequences of more than 120 underground nuclear blasts on the coral atoll.

Greenpeace spokeswoman Stephanie Mills told AFP by telephone from the ship: "It was just impoliteness by the French. "There was absolutely no reason why they had to enforce this ban after five years. It causes some inconvenience to the ship that the captain and Sue Ware have to remain aboard while the rest of the crew can go ashore," she said.

"But it certainly isn't going to deter us from our aim to sail to Mururoa to find out what the environmental consequences of the French nuclear testing have been there," Ms. Mills said.

Speaking from the ship, Captain Willcox said Greenpeace would be seeking legal advice about overturning the ban. "Neither Sue nor I regret our actions in 1985," he said. "These actions will not stop us. Greenpeace will continue to protest at Mururoa as long as nuclear testing continues in French Polynesia."

Another Greenpeace campaigner on board, Martin Gotje, was deported from French Polynesia after a protest at Mururoa in 1973, but has not been banned from entering Papeete this time.

New Zealand

Fiji Requests Resumption of Military Cooperation

BK2411063890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, Nov 24 (AFP)—Fiji Saturday asked the New Zealand Government to resume military cooperation, discontinued since the 1987 coup. The request was made by Fiji's Interim Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara at a meeting with New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon, who held brief talks at Auckland Airport during a stopover by Ratu Mara.

The New Zealand Government invited Ratu Mara to the meeting following an announcement by Mr. McKinnon earlier this week that it would like to send a senior minister to Suva early next year.

Television New Zealand reported that Ratu Mara had asked for military cooperation to be resumed and the Fijian leader, speaking in a televised news conference following the talks, said: "We are hoping that training of our people in New Zealand can be resumed."

Mr. McKinnon's response was cautious. Speaking at the same news conference, he noted that New Zealand had recently offered to resume cooperation in maritime aerial surveillance but added: "We see that as separate from the military issue."

Mr. McKinnon said his government would prefer to deal with the resumption of military ties at the time of free elections in Fiji scheduled for next year.

Before the military coup which overthrew the Indian-dominated government in Fiji, Army units from the South Pacific state were sent to New Zealand for training. New Zealand ended the cooperation to mark its opposition to the coup, but the government's intention to resume ministerial-level contacts has indicated a thaw in the relationship.

Former Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer met Ratu Mara in Vanuatu at the South Pacific Forum meeting in August this year but Saturday's talks were the first high-level contact on New Zealand soil since the coup.

Corporate Chief Demands Firing of Bank Chief

BK3011140490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Wellington, Nov 30 (AFP)—The head of New Zealand's largest public company Friday demanded the sacking of Reserve Bank Governor Don Brash and senior officials of the central bank and treasury.

Hugh Fletcher of Fletcher Challenge Ltd. said in an opening address to an economic conference convened by new Prime Minister Jim Bolger, "the governor and senior officials of the Reserve Bank and treasury should be sacked. "If the private sector is to believe that monetary policy and the real exchange rate have permanently changed, the people wedded to past policies must go and be replaced by people committed to the new," he said.

Mr. Fletcher also said the government should scrap defence spending, close diplomatic posts, immediately relax monetary policy and guarantee low wage increases for the next three years.

He said there should be "an announcement that New Zealand cannot afford its grandiose aspirations to defence forces and foreign affairs overseas representation and that getting New Zealanders back into well-remunerated employment is the most important security issue New Zealand faces.

"The announcement should incorporate cancellation of military hardware orders and closure of overseas offices."

He also advocated that the Reserve Bank Act, which states that the governor's sole objective is to achieve an inflation rate of between zero per cent and two per cent by 1992, should be changed to aim for a rate less than the average among the 24-nation organization of economic cooperation and development.

"If we do not want disaster, an immediate package of consistent action to increase demand is necessary," he said.

At the conference were Mr. Bolger, Finance Minister Ruth Richardson, other cabinet ministers and key private sector leaders.

At a press conference afterwards, Mr. Bolger said the meeting had been valuable but he was either unwilling or unable to say whether the sector representatives had been able to persuade the government to adopt specific new measures.

Ms. Richardson said the country faced a current account deficit forecast of around five billion New Zealand dollars (three billion U.S.) in the year to March 1991 "and a fiscal outlook that is appalling."

"For the 1990-91 fiscal year we have projected a financial deficit of around one billion dollars (621 million U.S.)," her paper said.

Ms. Richardson also cited depressed business and consumer confidence, unemployment, high net public debt, fluctuating inflation and continuing high interest rates as among economic problems facing the government.

Western Samoa

Prime Minister Introduces Suffrage Bill 27 Nov

BK2811125490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0846 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Apia, Nov 27 (AFP)—Western Samoa Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana introduced a bill in the Fono (parliament) here Tuesday to provide for universal suffrage in future elections. The bill was referred to a committee for consideration.

Currently only family heads holding chiefly or orator titles (Matai) can vote in 47 traditional seats in the assembly, though universal suffrage is used for the two seats set aside for naturalized Samoans. Under the bill only Matai would, as at present, be allowed to stand as candidates in the traditional seats.

Western Samoa is due to go to the polls early next year.

The electoral amendment bill allows all citizens aged 21 years and over the right to vote, enlarging the electorate from around 20,000 to more than 70,000.

One unexpected feature of the bill was that it requires voters to produce a certificate of identity complete with a photograph, an identification number and the name of the electoral constituency. No such certificates currently exist.

The move to change the voting laws followed a referendum in October in which 49 per cent voted in favour of universal suffrage and 44 per cent against.

Prime Minister Warns of Crop Production Drop

BK2811154090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Apia, Nov 27 (AFP)—Production of Western Samoa's major export crops had dropped dramatically in the last year, Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana told the Fono (parliament) here Tuesday.

Presenting the government's budget, he said commercial production of Copra in the first 10 months of 1990 had totalled 6,400 tonnes, one third of what it was for the whole of 1989. He said coconut oil prices had dropped 40 per cent while cocoa production in the first 10 months had been negligible.

Western Samoa was still suffering the impact of Cyclone Ofa which devastated the country in February, he said. The prime minister said short term food crop production had recovered, but the decline in export production indicated that this vital sector would take years.

Tuesday's budget was a stopgap to cover the period while the country changes its financial year from the calendar year to July to June, and was the last budget prior to general elections early next year.

Tofilau said real economic growth next year was expected to rise from one per cent to two per cent.

Little recovery was expected in the farming and industrial sectors, but expansion was likely in construction, he said.

But despite obstacles the government believed Western Samoa was better prepared for rapid development in the 1990s than it was in the 1980s. He said in the '80s the average annual inflation rate was 30 per cent and the country had no overseas reserves.

Now Western Samoa would have an expected inflation rate of 15 per cent in 1990 and foreign assets of 156 million tala (127 million dollars).

Government expenditure for the six months to June 30 was 98 million tala (80 million dollars), Tofilau said.

The budget included provisions for a 7.5 per cent increase in salaries and wages for civil servants, which the prime minister said could not be deferred because costs had increased due to Ofa and the Gulf crisis.

Samoa's gross foreign reserves had declined slightly to 156 million tala (127 million dollars) at the end of September, but these were expected to rise as the government sells its half share of the bank of Western Samoa and receives funds from an Asian Development Bank loan.

However reserves were expected to worsen again in the latter part of 1991 due to worsening export performances and stagnant levels of private remittances from Samoans aboard.

Remittances have remained at about the 70 million tala (57 million dollars) per annum mark for the last three years.

In the budget Tofilau said the government was considering emergency measures on the supply of petroleum products in the event of a confrontation in the Middle East. He did not spell out the details, but an official source said plans including rationing. Petroleum accounts for 10 per cent of Western Samoa's imports.

Tofilau said while crude oil could cost 27 dollars a barrel on the world market, the landed cost in Samoa was 40 dollars a barrel. He said petroleum costs were high in the South Pacific because of the expense of shipping, low volumes and the limited number of companies operating.

The government will seek 2.5 million tala (two million dollars) extra in the six month period to fund a newly introduced pension scheme which gives 50 tala (41 dollars) a month to citizens over the age of 65. dd